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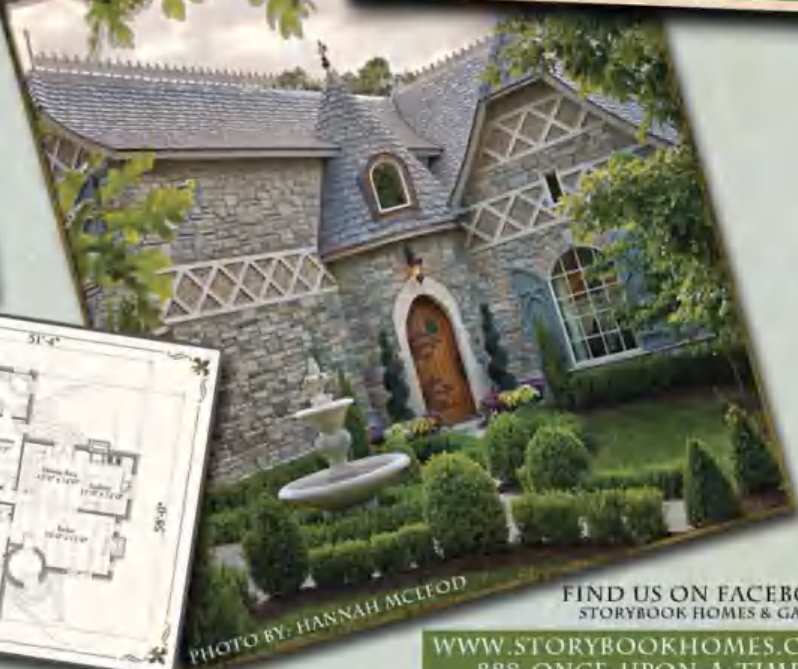
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Cover photo by Greg Cox



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PHOTO BY MARK MENDEZ

NATURE'S MEDICINE

AFTER MY LAST DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT I GOT A CALL ABOUT MY ANNUAL PHYSICAL LAB RESULTS. The call alone was enough to scare me. Each year, my checkup comes and goes uneventfully (thankfully). "We'll call you if there's anything unusual," they say. A call never comes. "See ya next year."

But this time, just a few days after my appointment, a call came. My heart quivered a bit. *What could it be?* I thought to myself as I anxiously dialed the office. The answer was vitamin D deficiency. Eh? That's a thing worth a call from the lab? But dutifully I picked up a prescription for a few doses high enough to get me back on track, and the doctor's orders were go outside.

I felt bad that I needed a doctor to remind me to spend more time outdoors. The past year has been a whirlwind of work that had subtly, but surely, kept me out of the bright, warm sun. I'd traded lunchtime walks for answering more emails, swapped my runs at the park for quicker classes at the gym; weekends were about sleeping in and catching up on household chores instead of activities out in the world.

So it comes as good timing and with renewed vigor that this spring issue is all about tearing down the walls between our homes and gardens, and expanding our living spaces by creating beautiful rooms inside and out. We visited some truly dreamy gardens, decked out with the coziest furnishings and the lushest romantic blooms. And the interiors in this issue promote stripping away the barriers, opening those windows and making each room breathable, open and vibrant, so they remind you that nature is good for you. I hope you find a few projects in this issue that inspire you to enjoy spring style and take an extra walk or two.

Jackie Torres, Editor



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ROOMS IN *Bloom*

BY JICKIE TORRES

Revive ho-hum spaces in an instant with these flower-powered accents.

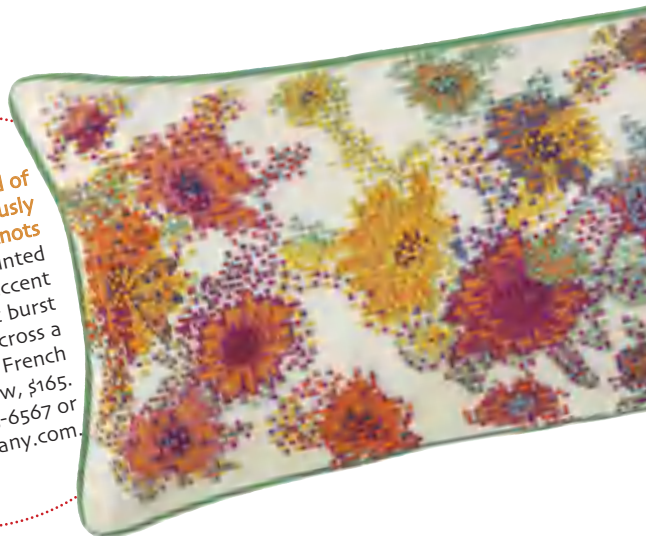


Clever and crafty, this modern take on baroque styling adds a whimsical touch to any room. FunDeco vintage-inspired paperboard clock, \$19.50–\$34.50. Visit thegrommet.com.

Sunny style and cheerful design combine in this tabletop accent. Blooming Poppy bowl, \$128. (877) 583-7724 or shopterrain.com.



Constructed of hundreds of meticulously hand-stitched French knots atop a hand-printed pattern, this textural accent boasts flowers that burst like fireworks across a white cotton pillow, \$165. (844) 343-6567 or company.com.



This whimsical lamp brings flora and fauna into your room. Elastic fabric in a fun floral print is stretched over a wire frame, which conceals a color-changing LED light. Oversized sparrow lamp, \$224. Visit alessi.com.



Add a classically sweet Swedish touch with this charming server. Blue fluted plain footed bowl, \$300. Visit royalcopenhagen.us.



Get the professional look for your own flower arrangements with this simple-to-use topper that can be added to any vase for well-placed blooms. Easy arranger, \$12 for a pack of 3. Visit thegrommet.com.



Store your odds and ends in style with this tall tin adorned with Finnish folk-inspired illustrations. Taika tin box, \$25. Visit finnstyle.com.



BUDDING *Beauties*

Recycle raw material to create a one-of-a-kind vase for your spring flowers.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEAL GRUNDY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH LAWRENCE



IT'S SPRING—TIME

for fresh flowers and redolent roses in the house. How about a new vase to go with them? In her new book *Raw Crafts: 40 Projects for hemp, jute, burlap and cork*, Denise Corcoran explores the raw materials that give a fun and personal style to craft projects. "The use of natural fibers in your DIYs, especially restyling discarded items, is an exciting way to explore your creative side," Corcoran says.

One such material is jute. "Jute comes from the stem and ribbon (outer skin) of the jute plant," Corcoran says. "It's affordable and easy to find in craft, dollar or hardware stores." Deck out your house with a new upcycled vase; then explore other ways to incorporate jute or another raw material into your décor.

What You'll Need:

- Glass container or bottle
- Glue gun and glue sticks
- 1-2 rolls of jute, depending on the size of the container
- Piece of scrap fabric, sufficient to wrap around the container
- Scissors
- Dressmaking pins
- Fabric glue
- Clothespins
- Rubber bands
- Burlap (optional)
- Rope or cord (optional)

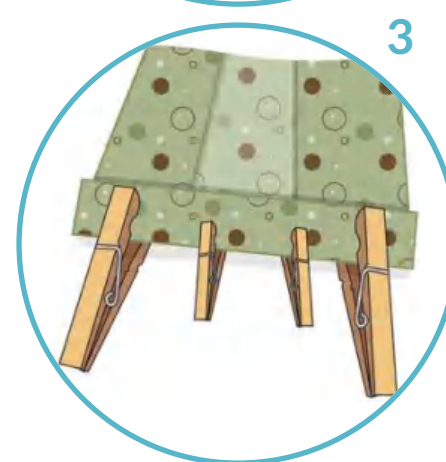
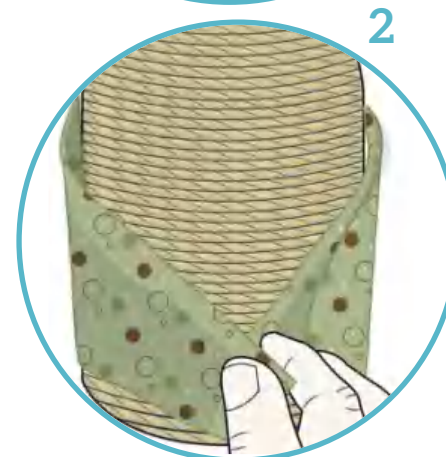
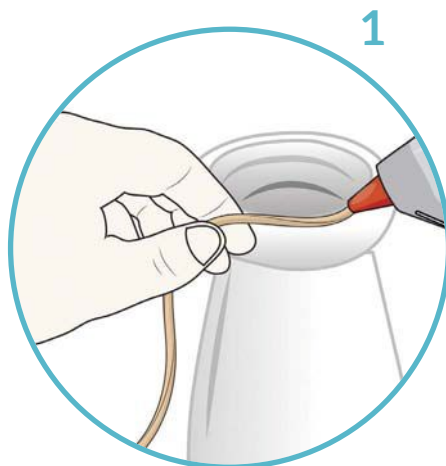
What You'll Do:

1. Clean the container and plug in the glue gun. Once the glue gun is warmed, dab glue around the top of the container and press the free end of the jute into it. Keep dabbing on more glue while wrapping the jute neatly around the container. Wrap the entire container; then trim and glue the end in place. Leave to dry.

2. Wrap the fabric around the container, and fold the fabric to get it the correct width and height. Mark with pins and remove from the container. Trim the fabric (if necessary). Then on both long sides and one short side, fold and pin it to the wrong side. Recheck that the fabric fits around the container. When you're satisfied, iron the folds and remove the pins.

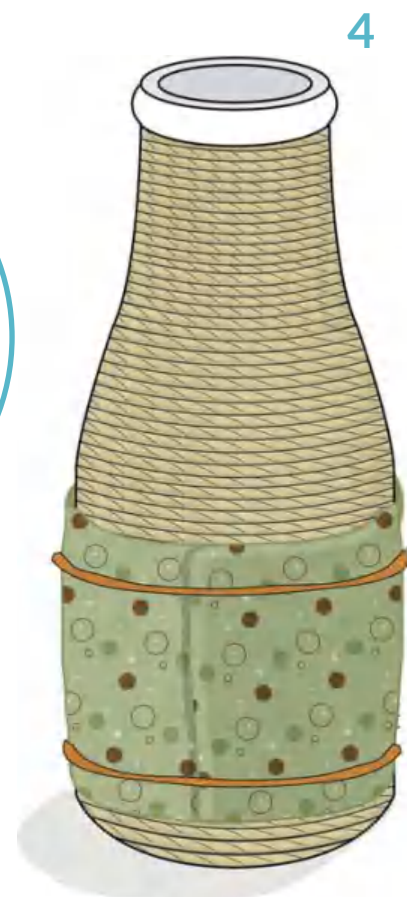
3. Apply the fabric glue to the inside of the three folded edges. Press firmly on the glue to secure contact, and then use clothespins to clamp the folds. Leave to dry.

4. When the glue is dry, apply fabric glue to the wrong side of the fabric. Wrap the fabric around the container and secure it with rubber bands while the glue dries. Add further decoration like a hemp trim, which can sit above and below the fabric, or a bouquet of burlap flowers.



Raw Crafts: 40 Projects for hemp, jute, burlap and cork
by Denise Corcoran,
published by Lark Crafts,
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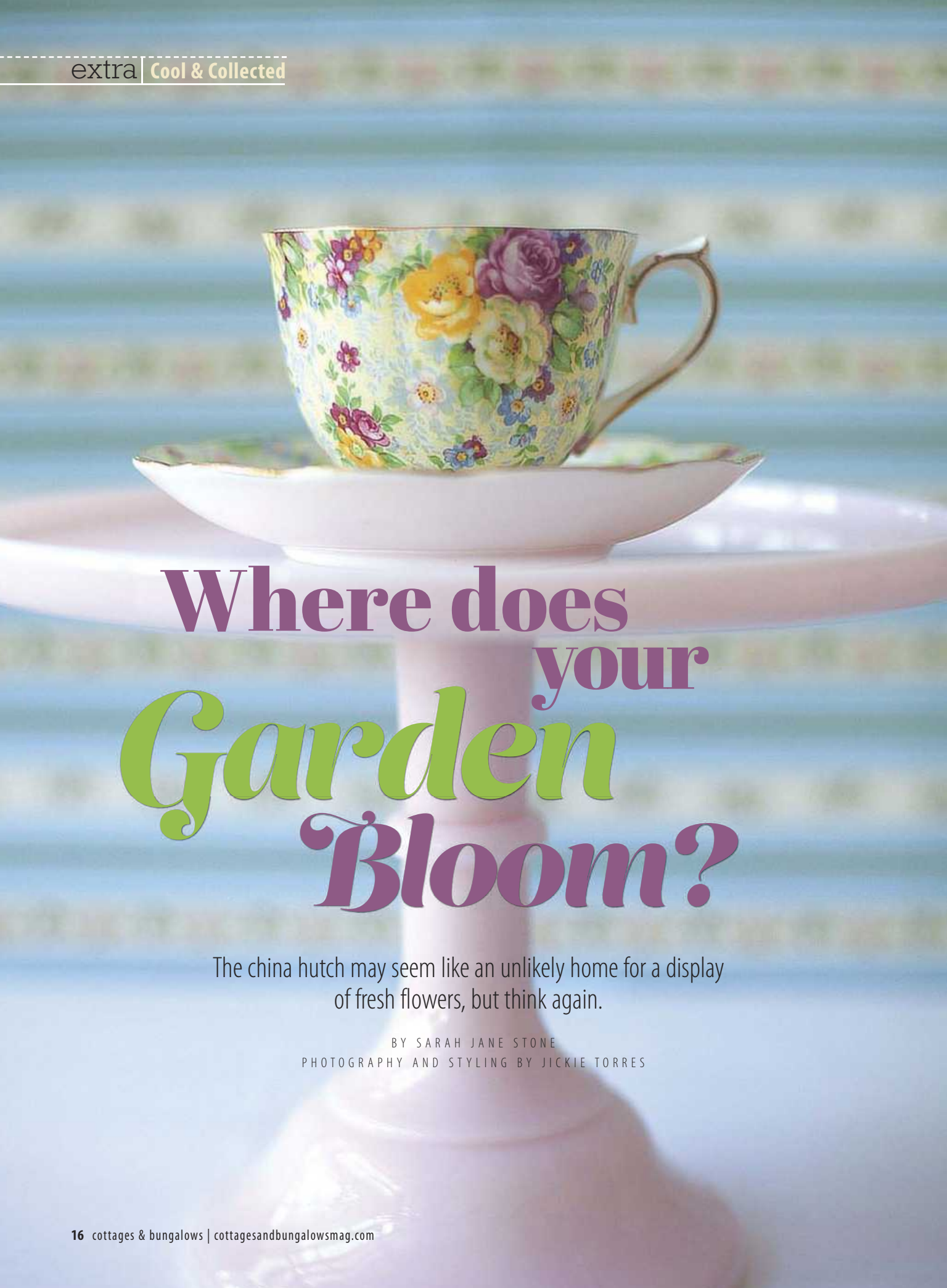


Vintage Trophies

BY JACKIE TORRES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM

LOOKING FOR A WINNING DÉCOR IDEA?

Antique and vintage trophies celebrate more than old victories; they are a score in and of themselves. Use them to impart a regal sense of elegance to any space. Or have fun with them and reuse them in myriad ways: as a pot or planter, as a server for silverware and napkins for your next fete—even as a fabulously festive cake plate.

A photograph of a vintage floral teacup and saucer set on a pink pedestal. The teacup is decorated with a vibrant floral pattern featuring purple, yellow, and blue flowers. The saucer is plain white. The background is a soft-focus garden scene with green foliage and a blue sky. The title text is overlaid on the image.

Where does your *Garden* Bloom?

The china hutch may seem like an unlikely home for a display of fresh flowers, but think again.

BY SARAH JANE STONE
PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES



THIS SPRING, BRING THE BEAUTY OF THE GARDEN

indoors—without the worry of wilting. A chintz china collection lets you have an array of blossoms on the table no matter the weather or season, and the bouquet is sure to last.

WHAT'S CHINTZ?

Simply put, chintz is dinnerware with busy yet delicate, “all-over” floral designs—although there are some varieties with fruit patterns or birds. These vintage porcelain pieces don blooms and blossoms from rim to rim. Though often with white or soft yellow backgrounds, these charming dishes also have bold counterparts that boast black backgrounds.

BACK STORY

The name “chintz” actually comes from the floral fabric pattern that was imported from India and can be traced back as far as the 17th century. With chintz ceramic production at potteries holding strong from the 1920s through the 1960s, the most prolific producers of chintz pottery were in Staffordshire, England. Serving pieces originally sold for only a few dollars apiece in department stores in the United States as well as across the pond.

PATTERNS AND MAKERS


While chintz patterns are similar in subject

Despite their busy patterns, chintz pieces play well together—making them ideal for creating seasonal vignettes or for adding a vintage dose of color and charm to a table setting. A piece in *Summertime* by Royal Winton tops off this cheerful display.

matter, there are countless varieties—making something perfect for nearly every collector. Royal Winton, which started under the name of Grimwades Ltd., released Marguerite as its first chintz pattern. The company boasts several of the most popular and valued designs, as James Kent Ltd., Shelley Potteries Ltd. and Johnson Brothers Ltd.

START COLLECTING

Chintz dishes have long been popular with collectors, thanks to their many patterns and charming colors. Both beautiful and utilitarian, they are sought after by collectors of porcelain, serveware and English pottery as well as by collectors of pre- and post-war memorabilia.

Chintzware can be difficult to find at flea markets; venues such as antiques stores, estate sales, auctions and online vendors often yield better results. Pricing will vary based on the location, as well as on whether the piece is a reproduction. Overall, prices can range from around \$25 to hundreds of dollars for a larger piece. 



Check those stamps!
Many patterns have been
reproduced, so check the
stamp to know the true age
of a piece.



BRING THE OUTDOORS *In*

Try these clever upcycles that add a dose of garden style to your décor.

BY JICKIE TORRES



PHOTO BY MARK MENDEZ

LEAP FROG

These vintage flower frogs can get a new lease on life in your home office. Reuse the grid style as pen and pencil holders, and the spiked versions are great for holding photos and notes.



1. PLANTING STYLE

An outdoor potting rack makes a wonderful indoor display shelf or étagère. Paint the metal for a smoother finish, or leave it chippy for a rustic look.

2. WORK IT

Reinvent a shabby old ladder as a place for storing indoor elements such as scarves and hats for your bedroom, or try one in the bathroom for a vintage-inspired way to store extra towels. Wash, sand, wax and seal it before use to avoid snags and splinters.

3. FROM BATH TO GARDEN

This tiered birdbath doesn't stray too far from its original use. If you plant it with indoor micro greens, it keeps its lush garden look inside too.

4. HUNT & GATHER

Rather than let this cute bucket succumb to the elements, these homeowners used it as a clever way to stylishly store extra towels in the guest bath.



ATTENTION ALL NON-GREEN THUMBS: MOTHER NATURE HAS A PLANT FOR YOU.

Tillandsias, commonly known as air plants, require no soil, no pot even, and very little water. In fact these spiky, fuzzy little plants with their spectacular and sometimes peculiar shapes feel more like living sculptures than anything that comes from a garden, and yet anyone who's killed their last houseplant and sworn off gardening should think again.

Author Zenaida Sengo extolls the many virtues and joys of growing and cultivating tillandsias in her new book, *Air Plants: The Curious World of Tillandsias*. In it, she not only provides readers with a basic primer on the care and maintenance of these delightful plants; she also offers some creative and inspirational ideas for displaying them. Here are some of our favorite insights into these fun flora.

Up in the Air

Discover the ultimate easy-care plant.

BY JICKIE TORRES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAITLIN ATKINSON

Try this new take on vertical gardening. This celestial-inspired wall arrangement is created using Thigmotropes, a planter specifically created for tillandsias that was designed by architect Seth Boor in collaboration with floral designer Flora Grubb. The Thigmotrope screws into the wall leaving two prongs to rest an air plant on.



Air plants allow you to repurpose any small vessel into a planter. Here a vintage wasabi dish provides a vibrant patterned backdrop for a *tillandsia juncifolia*. Small pebbles allow you to tilt the plant one way or the other for your desired display.

extra Pure & Simple




You can use jewelry wire to create hangers for your air plants that allow you to display them anywhere.

LIKE A PINEAPPLE, AIR PLANTS ARE FROM THE BROMELIAD FAMILY. And like the fruit, they have a strong tropical appearance. Tillandsias can even grow to be as big as, if not bigger than, a ripe pineapple.

CAN YOU CALL THEM PARASITES?

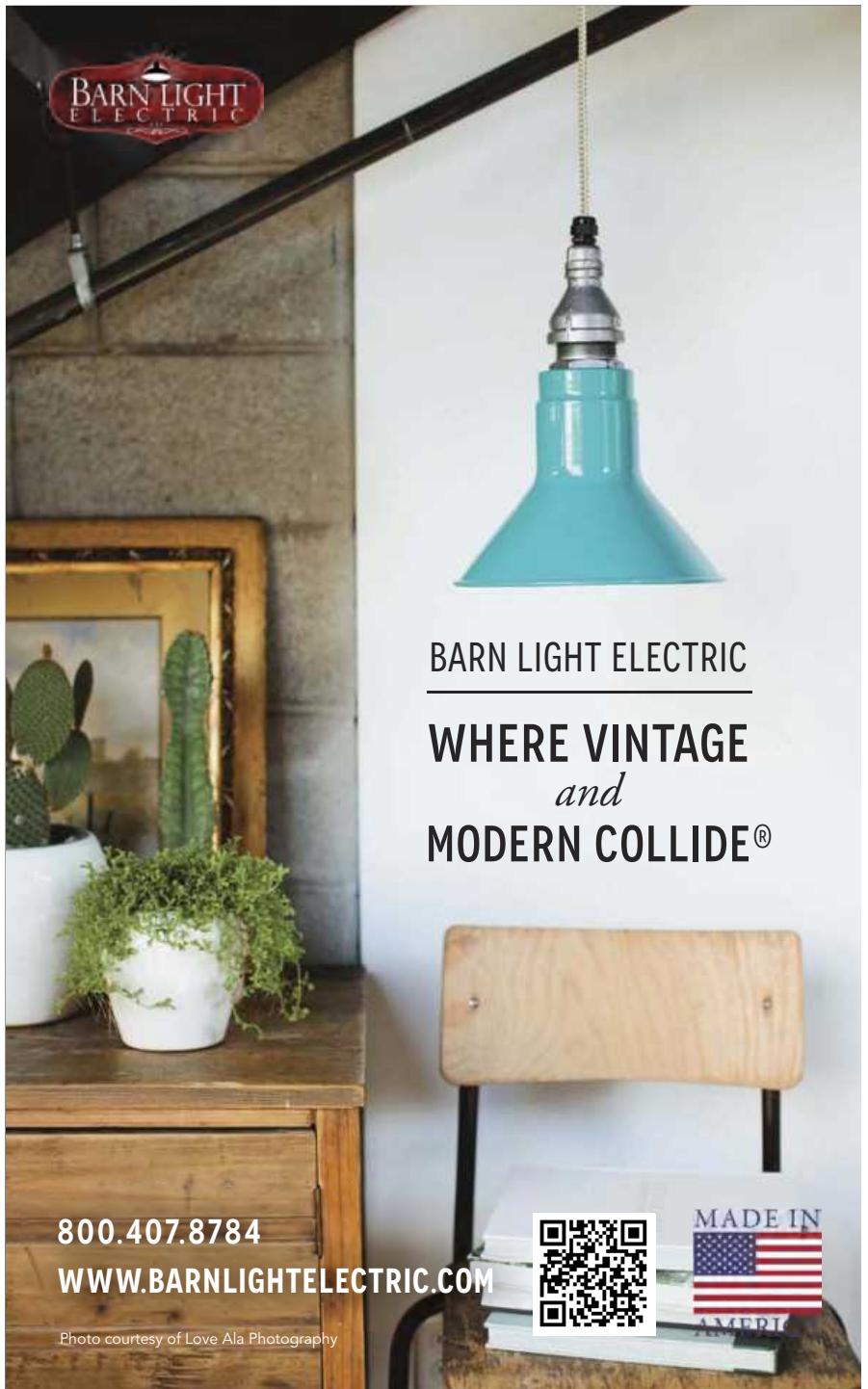
Well, sort of. Because tillandsias have limited root functions, they attach themselves to surfaces (a host), often times other plants such as trees, shrubs and other flowering plants, to absorb water and position themselves for optimum light.

DESPITE THEIR NAME, THEY CAN'T LIVE ON AIR ALONE. Like any other bromeliad, tillandsias have leaves that overlap and funnel into a central core where they store water, which allows them to go long periods of time in between watering. When caring for yours, give them a good soak submerged for a few minutes in water; then let them dry out completely before restoring them to their rightful spot. Water them a couple times a week in hot weather, once a month when it's cooler.

THEY ARE PLANTS ON THE GO. The beauty of air plants is that they are mobile. Which means you decorating addicts can relocate them as often as you like when tinkering with your room décor. Just try to choose a bright spot with ample light. 



Air Plants: The Curious World of Tillandsias by Zenaida Sengo, published by Timber Press, © 2015; timberpress.com.




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red, turquoise & yellow

BY SARAH JANE STONE

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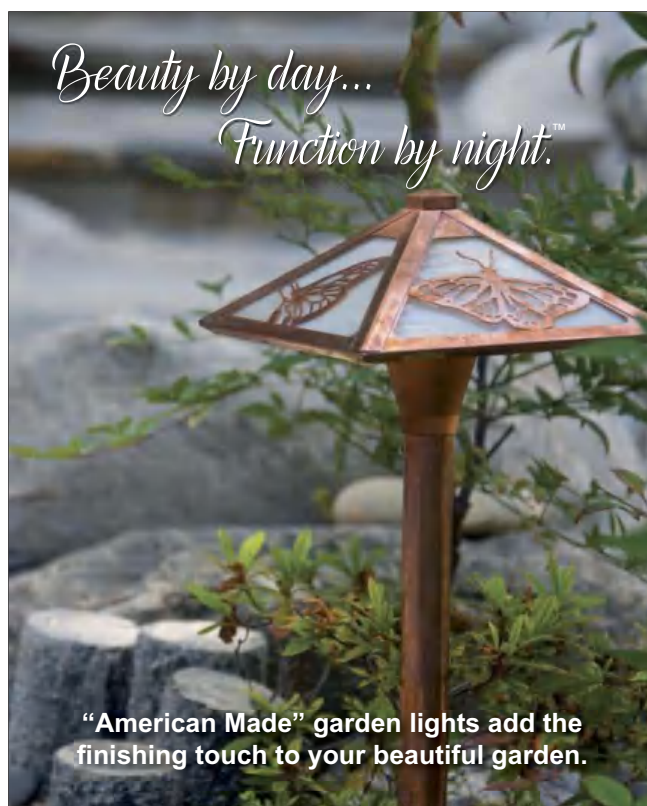
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BY LINDSEY STEFFES AND ELIZABETH T. PARDO
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4. Give vines an elegant place to climb with this stately garden obelisk. 7' powder-coated steel garden obelisk in antique copper, \$59.95. (800) 494-7544 or plowhearth.com.

5. Travel to the Far East without ever leaving your backyard. This pagoda-inspired umbrella is sure to conjure up a sense of adventure. Pagoda umbrella—kaeden, \$239.95. (800) 245-4595 or pier1.com.



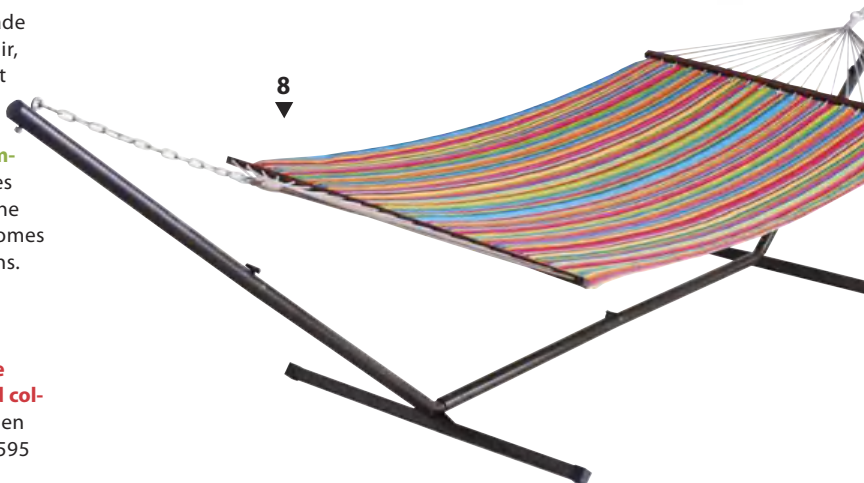
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6. Cozy up in this charming, Caribbean-striped hammock made for one. La Siesta Hammock Chair, Caribeña Aqua Blue, \$81.47. Visit houzz.com.



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7. Made of sturdy, beautiful bamboo, this three-piece set includes two chairs with a round table. The sling is durable polyester that comes in a variety of colors and patterns. Phat Tommy 3 Piece Bistro Set, \$215.99. Visit wayfair.com.



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8. Kick back, relax and enjoy the spring blooms in this bright and colorful hammock. Whimsical Garden Hammock, \$179.95. (800) 245-4595 or pier1.com.



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9. Turn your backyard parties into a stylish affair with these fashion-forward cocktail napkins and coasters. Amanda autumn paper coasters, \$16. Guava Pink color-block napkins, \$24. Visit theblushlabel.com.

10. Wine and dine outdoors with these beautiful, unbreakable glasses in teal. Green nesting wine glasses, \$24.95. (800) 380-9819 or caronsbeachhouse.com.

11. Wow guests at your spring soiree with a set of delicate, gold-edged tobacco leaf plates. Tobacco leaf tin plate, \$18. (866) 241-8329 or furbishstudio.com.

12. Bring the whimsy of a spring garden to your patio with these perfectly pansy pillows in lime or pink, \$49. (919) 238-6773 or designerpillowshop.com.



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13. A classical illustration style lends a timeless look to this outdoor accent. Botanical outdoor pillow, \$68. (877) 583-7724 or shopterrain.com.

14. Add a soft glow to your backyard with this ultra-modern pendant light. Yeon pendant, \$449. (800) 401-1900 or rejuvenation.com.

15. With hand-blown glass and organic styling, these solar-powered lanterns are sunshine in a jar. Solar tealights, \$25. (888) 365-0056 or uncommongoods.com.



cottage kitchens

COMFORTABLE ELEGANCE

BY SARAH JANE STONE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM
STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES AND
SARAH JANE STONE

Despite its small size, this sophisticated redesign is rich with style and brimming with storage—celebrating the beauty of attention to detail.





[OPPOSITE] TRADITIONAL DESIGN STAPLES, the farmhouse sink and bridge faucet offer style and function to the kitchen. The deep single-basin sink is a workhorse that can manage a hefty load of dishes from entertaining, while the faucets' long necks make filling pots a breeze. Not your usual island, the 19th-century butcher block has its original cleaver and anchors the space with its warm wood tone.

S MALL IS NOT WHAT DEFINES THIS 150-SQUARE-FOOT KITCHEN. Its open floor plan, elegant style and attention to detail steal the show.

When Charmean Neithart of Charmean Neithart

Interiors approached this redesign, she updated the layout, added a banquette and infused the homeowner's personal style with sophistication and rich detail.

OPEN WIDE

Prior to the redesign, the floor plan was choppy and closed-off. The homeowners wanted an open plan that would feel formal and elegant, but comfortable at the same time. With a collection of antique pieces and a dislike of clutter, the homeowners' top priority was to have a place for everything.

Charmean says the layout of the kitchen is the most important aspect and should dictate the design. "You don't start a project with what you want it to look like; you start with the layout," she says. The designer opened up the kitchen by removing a wall where the banquette now sits and by raising the ceiling to add a sense of spaciousness.

"This project took 14 months to complete from start to finish, and no detail was spared," Charmean says. "Highlights include custom doors, limestone floors, pewter hardware, fine antiques and a vintage butcher block from the 19th century with its original cleaver."

[THIS PAGE] GLASS PANELS ON THE CABINET DOORS allow the homeowners to display their collection of dishes and dinnerware, while small lights make them sparkle. Storing dishes in the cabinets above the discreet dishwasher makes it easy to unload and keep the counters clear.



BY TEARING DOWN A WALL that separated the kitchen from the dining room, Charmean created a more open-plan design that fit the rest of the house while affording the kitchen a new breakfast nook. The new larger dining room was designed into another part of the house.

cottage kitchens

HIDDEN FEATURES

The kitchen cabinetry is as stylish as it is practical. Painted in Benjamin Moore's River Reflections, the cabinets' warm gray shade creates the comfortable elegance desired by the homeowners. Installed behind the soft-close cabinetry are a plethora of storage-savvy organizers—proving that limited space doesn't mean limited storage.

Cabinets open to pullout shelves that neatly store pots, pans and serveware, while wide drawers beneath the stove-top keep utensils within easy reach. A divided cabinet above the stacked oven and microwave makes storing everything from baking sheets and cooling racks to casserole dishes and serving trays easy and organized. Built-in spice racks in drawers and easy pullout recycling and trash cans make the kitchen a highly efficient and well-thought-out space.

DETAIL-ORIENTED

Extending the upper cabinets to the ceiling not only adds storage and emphasizes the newly raised ceiling; it also eliminates the gap the homeowners wanted to avoid.

Despite plenty of natural light from the kitchen's French doors, under-mount lights, pendants and recessed lighting make it a bright workspace.

Even the banquette was given special attention: The antique table was resized to perfectly fit the space, and the cushions were covered with orange faux-leather for colorful and durable seating. Beneath the banquette, push-open drawers offer storage perfectly suited for table linens. **CB**

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.

[OPPOSITE] CHARMEAN MADE THE most of the newly built banquette and cabinets: the side of the cabinets boasts a door that conceals wine storage. Under the banquette the team built in drawers that are now used to store kitchen linens.



STYLE FILE

TYPE OF HOME: Townhouse

BACKGROUND: Choppy and cramped, the previous design did not utilize the available space well and left much to be desired in terms of meeting the homeowners' desired style.

DESIGN ELEMENTS: Cabinet-panel-fronted appliances keep the space flowing, while attention to detail in the form of trim, high-quality materials and accents brings elegance to the timeless look.

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Hidden storage turns everyday elements into double-duty players. Case in point: The pantry doors host shallow shelves, and the fixed shelves within the cabinet are set slightly back so that everyday items are easily accessible. Plus the peninsula not only creates the back of the banquette but also provides perfect cookbook and wine storage.

[THIS PAGE] WHITE, HONED CARRARA marble may stain easily, but the homeowners had long wanted this material and have meticulously cared for it.

[OPPOSITE] STORING SPICES IS MADE EASY thanks to a spice rack built into a drawer next to the stove. Its slanted tiers keep each label visible—perfect for grabbing that little something extra to tie a meal together.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHARMEAN
NEIHART INTERIORS, VISIT
CHARMEAN-NEIHART-INTERIORS.COM.



Through the Garden Gate

Get inspired by a classic garden cottage filled with timeless décor and relaxing elements.

BY HILARY PRENDINI TOFFOLI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG COX
STYLING BY DANIELLE HOWARD

ATRIUM APPEAL. The entry is light and airy thanks to high vaulted ceilings and ample light. An oversized lantern pendant paired with a tall arch mirror and mercury-glass lamps evokes the delicate feel of a glasshouse.



SAY IT WITH SCALE. What the living room lacks in square footage, the homeowners more than make up for in bold scale. The oversized chandelier and the overstuffed ottoman and bench add a sense of opulence. A sisal rug and a rustic oak armoire keep things from feeling too stuffy, while gold accents and a colorful painting add vibrancy.

Casual luxury is the unique result of

COMBINING SPECIAL DETAILS WITH LAID-BACK APPEAL. GRAND IN SCALE AND CLASSIC IN CONCEPT, THIS COUNTRYSIDE COTTAGE IS AN OPULENT FAMILY HOME THAT IS DREAMY YET DOABLE.

Homeowner Lauren Searll bought the property when it had a single-story 1970s-era rancher on it. So it's surprising to know that the current abode, a house of baronial proportions with graceful Old World style, is just over a year old.

Lauren worked closely with architect Jacky Cattell for three years to create a vision that was very clear: "I knew exactly what I wanted. A French-inspired, romantic, classic home that breathed warmth and love," she smiles.

FRENCH ROOTS

She and her late husband, Aaron Searll, used to visit the legendary Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes in the south of France every year. So it's no surprise that stylish French flair is visible in her home, not only in the crystal chandeliers, ornate mirrors, French dressers and Louis XV cabriole legs that pop up everywhere, but also in the special pieces such as the 19th-century French church pew in the hall and the French butcher's rack that acts as a kitchen pot hanger.

There's French oak, too, on the floors and in the glass-fronted cabinets, while a rustic feel is maintained in the ceilings with poplar beams and exposed trusses.

MANOR GARDEN. Cement steps and pea gravel help delineate the space in the entry, creating a façade with grandeur while playing up the symmetry of the architecture.





FARMHOUSE FLAIR. Cottage sophistication and casual charm come together in this farmhouse-inspired kitchen. The white textured tiles hint at a rustic touch, which is complemented by the roughly painted light fixture. A plank ceiling tops off the country look, while slipcovered bar chairs, white honed marble and classically trimmed woodwork keep the chic balance. The French motto *Une bonne cuisinière a besoin d'une bonne cuisine* (a good cook needs a good kitchen) was hand painted on the backsplash.



UNE BONNE CUISINIÈRE
A BESOIN
D'UNE BONNE CUISINE



IT'S SERENE AND RELAXED, AN EFFECT ACHIEVED PARTLY BY MUTED NATURAL COLORS THROUGHOUT. AS LAUREN PUTS IT, "EVERYTHING IS GENTLE ... "

ROOMS THAT HUG YOU

You might imagine that Lauren and her two daughters—Juliette, 11, and Sophia, 10—would rattle around in the new, larger build. Yet, thanks to the relatively small rooms and quietly elegant decor, it's the kind of home that wraps itself around you. It's serene and relaxed, an effect achieved partly by muted natural colors throughout. As Lauren puts it, "Everything is gentle except our upstairs playroom."

She was responsible for the décor, with the assistance of interior designer Georgina Bagg.

The calm spirit of the house is rather like that of its unflappable owner. "I'm a very traditional person, and family is the most important thing in my life," Lauren says. "So I want to live in a space that is completely comfortable and warm. I love life's luxuries, so beautiful fabrics, antiques and crystal always are always part of my rooms, but nothing is precious and anyone coming into my home must feel completely relaxed. Spill something or break something, it's just part of the journey."

SPACE MANAGEMENT

To stay true to Lauren's goal for, "a large family home with great areas for entertaining," she paid special attention to proportions.

"The roof is broken into smaller sections, so it never feels like a mansion," explains Jacky. "So rooms are warm

SWEET SIMPLICITY. The monochrome neutral tones of the room are broken up by the pastoral painting, which almost fools the eye into thinking it's a window view to the outdoors. To keep things simple, Georgina used the same windowpane-plaid flannel to upholster the ottoman and create a few throw pillows for the room.



RUSTIC ELEGANCE. The mix of relaxed and chic continues in the dining room, where the same chunky sisal floorcovering adds warmth to the room. The upholstered seating is paired with a hefty oak farm-style trestle table.





DREAM BATH. What better way to enjoy the garden view than while soaking in a freestanding tub? The curtains span the room with a layer of sheers that can at once provide privacy yet not intrude on the view.

VINTAGE GLAM. For a personal touch, this old dresser was transformed and repurposed as a sink. A coat of chalk paint tones down the ornate carvings for something a bit more modern.

and personal to reflect Lauren and her family, each designed especially for its function, although they flow into each other."

Jacky introduced the Cape Dutch vernacular in the external chimneystack, which is made of hand-tooled stone. Her smart domestic suggestions, with entertaining in mind, included the location of the drinks fridge not far from the pool, a long ironing table of oak on castors so it can easily become an extra table, and two dishwashers instead of one.

TUNING THE LANDSCAPE

Landscape architect Tirzah Webb designed the French country style garden, maximizing views and screening neighbors' roofs, while creating an abundance of sumptuous greenery that softens the strong lines of the house. Undulating slopes became levels, and various intimate areas were established and contain urns and garden benches from Lauren's previous home.

"The main garden required earthworks and stylizing," says Tirzah. "We kept it simple, yet bold and dramatic like the view of





HEAD IN THE CLOUDS. The dreamy master bedroom is a study in balanced luxury. The high exposed-beam ceilings carry the rustic vibe from downstairs to the second floor. The large chandelier matches the fixtures throughout the house for more cohesion. The high crushed-velvet tufted headboard is a glamorous departure that sets this room apart.

GUEST GETAWAY. The guestroom feels like a well-pampered retreat thanks to an opulent carved bed, which has been trimmed down to feel a bit more causal and to not overtake the small room.





"I LOVE LIFE'S LUXURIES, SO BEAUTIFUL FABRICS, ANTIQUES AND CRYSTAL ARE ALWAYS PART OF MY ROOMS, BUT NOTHING IS PRECIOUS AND ANYONE COMING INTO MY HOME MUST FEEL COMPLETELY RELAXED. SPILL SOMETHING OR BREAK SOMETHING, IT'S JUST PART OF THE JOURNEY."

[ABOVE] SPA SOPHISTICATION. The ensuite guest bath takes simple luxury to new heights, thanks to marble floors and a classic bombe style chest turned sink vanity. A pair of Venetian style mirrors is stylish and functional, helping the small bath feel bigger.

[RIGHT] PINK PALACE. The girls' room is as fun as it is shabby and chic. The ladder to the top bunk has drawers built in to the risers—a smart storage feature that will work in any room.







AL FRESCO DINING. The terrace is made with travertine tile floors, and a curved pergola gives the space a European feel.

GARDEN LUXURY. An outdoor shower is offset by handmade tiles in green tones to match the plantings.

| OPPOSITE | WALKING PATH. The small portion of the garden was designed with a formal Italianate garden in mind. But in lieu of Mediterranean plants, she chose to fill the beds with herbs and veggies for more function.

the mountain. The pool and its terrace garden were positioned to be appreciated from all angles, whether [you are] relaxing outside or dining on the main veranda or in the conservatory.”

A cheerful lineup of mop-head trees leads to the front door, large troughs spill over with colorful flowering plants and water features provide a tinkling soundtrack. Naturally France pops up again in the potager. At its heart rises a small fountain column from a pool enclosed by low, square bagged-brick walls. Granadillas climb over a wooden structure surrounded by vigorously growing edible vegetation. It’s a place where Lauren can sit on a bench in the midst of fragrant foliage or pick her favorite roses.

Lauren’s so content in this lovely home, she says she hates having to leave it: “I would happily spend every minute of the day here.” **CB**



DEMYSTIFYING PATTERN

MIXING. "For successful mixing and matching, be bold and play with scale," designer Lieve Saether says. "By giving the eye various points of interest, one can take in and enjoy a space in its entirety. Pattern and scale are wonderful ways to achieve this, and when mixing both, find reference in your selections to similar colors or patterns, adjusting their size as you go."



BENJAMIN
MOORE
-GRAPHITE-

Springtime Redux

New renovations and styling reset this Texas home just in time for spring.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM
STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES



Flowers may bloom overnight,

but your home décor certainly doesn't. Sometimes, it takes a while for your dream space to blossom. When Lieve Saether from Turnstyle Interior Design met with the owners of a neocolonial house in Austin, Texas, they were on the brink of moving. Frustrated with the house's layout and design, the Franks, a family of four, were ready to start from scratch in a new residence. However, Lieve knew that the fresh look they needed could be achieved right within the home's existing shell, and that renovations and styling could give it a stunning second life. "We were given the opportunity to help them see differently, and now they love it long-term and plan to stay to raise their family," Lieve says.

"They really gave us the reigns to explore what worked with the home," she says. "Their request to us was to bring out its best; which was very much achievable." The results were clean, airy spaces with unique design twists. And while the residence transitions beautifully through all the seasons, it wears spring particularly well with its light-drenched rooms and soothing color palette.



RIGHT WAYS TO USE LIGHT. When it came to styling the front room, Lieve considered the space's purpose and even how the natural progression of light would affect it. "Because this room faces east, the morning sunlight comes in quite nicely, allowing for a good start to the day," she says. "As much as this room is made for traffic and the afternoon bustle, it was also conceived to be a peaceful place to sit and read with a cup of coffee."



KID-APPROVED. This entryway was completely redone and includes custom details for the homeowners' daughters, like a bench for them to easily put on their shoes and built-in shelves for backpacks and lunchboxes.



CREATIVE KITCHEN MOVES

The kitchen was one of the biggest renovations. The original floor plan was cramped and had too many walls. "By tearing down the walls, including the one between the kitchen and dining room, we enabled the homeowners to experience the house as a whole but also gave them convenience," says Lieve, who changed the window sizes and added a door for patio access.

In order to keep the kitchen bright, she selected finishes with light tonal qualities for the cabinets and Silestone countertops by Cambria. For a dash of personality, she worked with the homeowners on an exquisite backsplash. The textured tiles from Design Elements were composed of pearlized seashells in a penny tile formation. "That was one of my favorite parts," Lieve says. "When we approach any project, we look for the identity of the homeowners and create something that becomes special and unique to them."

There are plenty of places for light to play throughout the day, from the backsplash's shiny shells to the reflective gold Atlas hardware on the cabinets. During springtime, fresh flowers and fruit are used to create living displays throughout the kitchen.

EARTHY CHIC

The kitchen now opens directly into the family room. Lieve made sure that the styling choices for the family room kept it distinct. She painted it a striking Benjamin Moore Graphite and then enlivened the space with artsy furnishings. She mixed and matched an Oriental Rug Gallery rug, custom Loft Home upholstered chairs, and throw pillows, finding balance in theme.

"These items come from a similar root—a tribal origin, a clean-lined nature," she explains. "It helps them to play well with one another." She hung an antique nomadic blanket on the wall in lieu of a traditional painting. The piece was originally used by Inca travelers and immediately added a sense of strength and history to the room. Since the kitchen and family room were interconnected, Lieve placed a wrought-iron gate holder by the couch to demarcate the spaces.



"WHEN DECORATING, WE MUSTN'T FORGET THAT WE ARE NOT BOUND TO THE STYLES OF OUR PARENTS.

MOST YOUNG FAMILIES ARE PLAYFUL AND ENERGETIC, AND OUR HOMES SHOULD BE THE BEST REFLECTION OF THAT."

THE TABLEAU PERFECTED.

Vignettes were orchestrated throughout the house and conceived as "gatherings of beauty." Lieve was intentional in their content and placement. Here a graphic black-and-white piece gives the handmade quality of the vase opportunity to shine atop the rustic side table.



[BELOW] THE CASE FOR THE VASE. The neutral-hued backsplash is a beautiful backdrop for vibrant florals. When picking vases for flower displays, Lieve suggests looking to the past: "Pick a favorite vase or ask a parent for one you remember from childhood and build from there."



THIS ONE'S FOR THE KIDS

Lieve applied her same aesthetic style to the homeowners' entry stairway. Once upon a time, the area was nothing more than an enclosed coat closet. "We opened up the space to allow for a much more welcoming entrance," Lieve says. By removing the walls, the staircase was instantly more approachable and added visual depth to the space. In addition, Lieve prioritized functionality for the young ones. "Because the homeowners have children that come with lots of backpacks, lunchboxes and shoes, we

custom designed this entrance area to accommodate things easily and tidily," she explains. "Each child received a dedicated area for herself, which always inspires a continued love for keeping things organized."

The walls were painted a combination of Witching Hour by Benjamin Moore and Behr's Ultra Pure White for a simple finish. The colors were chosen to balance the classic staircase and youthful modernity of the black banister. The combination is the perfect embodiment of Lieve's philosophy: "When decorating, we mustn't

[ABOVE] GET GOLDEN. For the kitchen hardware, Lieve opted for these gorgeous gold Atlas drawer pulls. When it came to selecting them, she looked for "pure shapes to keep things light." Her tip? Always hold hardware in your hands when choosing pieces for your kitchen to "make sure it's comfortable once it is installed because the weight and shape of hardware is incredibly important to the process."



HARDWOOD HARMONY. Armstrong hickory hardwood floors anchor the light, airy tones found throughout the paint, cabinets and backsplash.

FLAWLESS CONTRAST. The dining room's hues are vibrant and fun, perfect for a style-conscious family. The Society6 print and Anthropologie garden rug are both colorful but are completely different textures, sizes and feels, allowing them to contrast with each other beautifully.



forget that we are not bound to the styles of our parents. Most young families are playful and energetic, and our homes should be the best reflection of that."

DIVINE DINING ROOM

The dining room was another space that Lieve injected with a touch of lighthearted sophistication. She wanted the Franks to have a "dining room that appealed to the kids as much as the adults. With bright yet chic colors, its tones encouraged many long, lingering moments."

As with the entryway, Lieve paired style with functionality. She selected a sturdy zinc-topped table and graphic Riviera chairs from Serena & Lily. The lightweight set can easily be wiped down and cleaned while invoking a French coast café chair. An Anthropologie garden rug added a bold, fun feel underneath the elegant chairs, and the homeowners can enjoy the interplay of their tabletop décor with its colors. During springtime, Lieve loves to see the table decorated with fresh botanicals and whimsical touches like "playful dishes and patterned cloth napkins that make everyone feel at ease."

After the renovations and styling were complete, the Franks fell in love with the

"BY TEARING DOWN THE WALLS, INCLUDING THE ONE BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM, WE ENABLED THE HOMEOWNERS TO EXPERIENCE THE HOUSE AS A WHOLE BUT ALSO GAVE THEM CONVENIENCE."

home again and were excited to continue making new memories in the same place that had housed all their old ones. The finished product personifies the family's priorities: a flowing place that was kid-friendly yet effortlessly stylish.

If you are looking to give your home a facelift—whether a complete overhaul or just some carefully placed new furnishings—Lieve suggests these principles that helped her style this Texas home: "Don't take the process too seriously in that you should have fun with it. It's OK to make a few mistakes, because they inform us. A little bit of kitsch never hurt anyone and only reminds us of how livable a home should truly be. I cannot underscore enough how important it is to be yourself in your home." **CB**

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.





DELICATE DETAILS. Tiny ceramic butterflies give the table a whimsical feel and immediately make guests think of spring. Small details like this easily convey the spirit of the season.



LIEVE LOVES TO SEE THE
TABLE DECORATED WITH
FRESH BOTANICALS AND
WHIMSICAL TOUCHES LIKE
"PLAYFUL DISHES AND PAT-
TERNE D CLOTH NAPKINS
THAT MAKE EVERYONE FEEL
AT EASE."

APRIL TABLETOP. Springtime comes alive on the family's zinc-topped Jayson Home dining room table. Lieve describes the decorations as "an assortment of favorite things," like vibrant-hued placemats, neutral napkins and a profusion of flowers.



BLUE & WHITE DELIGHT

Turning cookie-cutter architecture into a unique home is a piece of cake.

BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM
STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES



THESE WALLS CAN TALK. Most of the plates on the wall in the family room are from Dinah's travels. "I like to buy plates when I travel. They liven up a white wall and have a history," she says. The unusual blue-scalloped plate was a gift from a friend from a trip abroad. The fabric on the lampshade is French. "Buy what you like, and it goes together," Dinah says.

T

hirty-five years ago,

Dinah Frieden found the perfect home for her young family, which included her husband, Cliff, two daughters and a son. She liked that it was nestled in the residential planned community of Irvine, California, surrounded by suburban villages, parks and outstanding schools for her children to attend.

However, there was one thing about the house that ran counter to the interior designer's creative nature: It was one of many similarly designed tract homes. So since she couldn't do much to modify the façade of the structure due to housing regulations, Dinah focused her design skills on the home's interior and grounds.



A CENTURY OF MEMORIES. The Chinese chest in the entryway has been in the family for 100 years. These chests are commonly painted red, and Dinah was told this one was once red as well. Instead of being placed on the floor, the chests are usually set higher so it's easier to get to the interior shelves. On top of it is a blue-and-white footbath that Dinah used to put her hydrangeas in as small plants.



SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT. The writing desk that sits in the corner of the living room goes back three generations (about 100 years) in the family. Above it is a painting that is also more than a century old that belonged to her mother-in-law. Dinah liked it and had it framed and professionally cleaned.





ROOM FOR GROWTH

No remodeling was necessary when the family moved in as it was a new build. However, Dinah updated and repurposed some of the rooms as time passed and the children got older.

"We changed the kitchen so I would have more of a open-area inclusiveness. And there was a column we integrated into the design using the same wood stain, distressing and molding as the cabinets. We worked with it instead of against it," Dinah says. "The children's playroom is now my home office. I added a table and chairs for meetings with clients. There's lots of area on the floor for me to play around with fabric swatches and design plans to create the vision my clients are looking for."

MIXING AND MATCHING

When it came time to decorate her new home, Dinah was feeling blue—it's her favorite color and she wanted it to be the common thread that ties all the rooms together, interior as well as exterior.

"Blue is the prominent color and other colors play off it, especially blue and white, and blue with yellow or green," Dinah says. "Almost all the walls are blue."

Comfort was the key factor in Dinah's design choices. "We wanted people to feel comfortable there, for our family to be comfortable and for it to express our family," she says. "The flow of the house has allowed us to have many celebrations and activities over three decades of family life."

Every room is comfortable, with touches of vintage style in most rooms. "The most important element for us is that it is a home that is livable. It's controlled family living. People can put their feet up on the table, even though that might not be something I'd suggest."

WALL TREATMENT. Dinah painted the dining-room walls in a striped design using a French-blue background with silver-metallic stripes. She opted for the stripe design instead of wallpaper to keep the room looking simple and clean. The dining table is English, with stacked leaves underneath. The lighting fixture is a reproduction.




"PLACING CANDLESTICKS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE WARMS IT UP AND CREATES A SENSE OF REST. CANDLES ARE LIKE WRAPPING A HUG AROUND YOURSELF; THEY ARE SO INVITING."



She brought in a global mix of antiques and accessories—English, French, Italian and a bit of Asian—culled from her travels abroad as well as from antiques shops closer to home. Many of her treasures were acquired during antiquing trips with friends to Cape Cod, New England, Northern California and Santa Barbara.

Among Dinah's collections that she showcases to express her personal style are cobalt-blue Depression glass, colorful plates from places she has traveled and some that were handed down, porcelain boxes that feature designs of her interests like tennis and travel, and classic traditional furniture.

As this home illustrates, you can't judge a book by its cover. Creating a comfortable, inviting haven in which you surround yourself with your favorite colors and treasures will make your home stand apart from the rest. 

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.



A living room with light blue walls and a white crown molding. In the background, a dark wood piano stands against the wall. To the right, a white fireplace mantel holds a large, vibrant floral painting in pastel oils, a vase of pink orchids, and two silver candlesticks. A blue sofa with floral patterned cushions and a red fringe throw is positioned in front of the piano. A wooden coffee table with a vase of orange roses sits in the center. A wooden chair with a cream-colored upholstered seat is in the foreground. The floor is made of dark wood.

“BUY WHAT YOU LIKE,
AND IT GOES TOGETHER.”

A LIVABLE ROOM. The living room features a piano, a maple floor and an original painting in pastel oils by local artist John Botz. In the back corner is an antique page that Dinah framed from an old book on botanicals.

DINAH BROUGHT IN A GLOBAL MIX OF ANTIQUES AND ACCESSORIES—ENGLISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN AND A BIT OF ASIAN—CULLED FROM HER TRAVELS ABROAD AND ANTIQUES SHOPS CLOSER TO HOME.



BED AND BOARD. The American-made headboard is about 50 years old. The bedding is French, made by Souleiado, a company known for its block prints and French-provincial designs that Dinah likes.

SECOND NATURE. These cement ducks are over 100 years old. She has rabbit sculptures and birdhouses in her garden as well to add to the natural surroundings.





OUTDOOR RETREAT. The courtyard area is a quiet spot to have tea, read a book and relax. From here, you can see the hydrangeas beginning to bloom behind the lounge chairs. Sunbrella fabric in Dinah's favorite design was used for the pillows.





Living History

See how a passion for collecting is just what you need to create a storied and sophisticated renovation.

BY RACHEL LEEDHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHEL SMITH

BUILT FOR DISPLAY. The glass and metal coffee table, designed by homeowner Heidi Maude, incorporates two vintage letter press trays, found at a flea market. "It's a wonderful way to display smaller collections," she says. The Aubusson-style rug and tripod light were both picked up at antiques fairs.

Have you ever felt like an old soul in a modern world?

Heidi Maude discovered a whole new side of her design aesthetic when she spent a year abroad in college. Her architect parents raised her in an avant-garde minimalist modern home with sleek, contemporary lines, poured concrete floors and carefully curated pieces of furniture. "I think that my aesthetic is something of a rebellion against that minimalist upbringing," Heidi laughs. "'Maximalist' and 'maggie' are words that members of my family use to describe me. I have a lot of things and they tend to be old—I love pieces that have a story."

Today, Heidi's charming abode is full of hallmarks of her collector's nature. Her style is shaped by classic French and Swedish style, and her well-edited décor proves that you can live with what you love in a sophisticated and elegant way.

VINTAGE SMARTS

Heidi's passion for vintage finds sprang from necessity. "I was a student living in Antwerp, and I soon realized that the charity shops had some of the best bits and pieces. Soon I was visiting flea markets and antiques shops, and I suppose it went from there."



[LEFT] HUNT & GATHER. While she was still in college, Heidi found one of the Georgian wine decanters at the famous Portobello Road market in London. She recently found its partner on eBay.



THE SUBTLE PAINT
PALETTE OF GRAYS IS
ANOTHER FAVORITE OF
HEIDI'S—SOFT SHADES
THAT ENHANCE THE GOOD
NATURAL LIGHT AND FORM
A NEUTRAL BACKDROP TO
HER COLLECTIONS.

PRESERVING THE PAST. Heidi kept the hall and stairway's original Edwardian wallpaper, painting it a warm gray that complements her beautiful Swedish Mora clock dating from the early 1800s.

BUILDING BLOCKS. The bluestone tiles, brought over from Belgium by Heidi's father are, she says, "a nod to my heritage." The cupboards, topped with a mixture of oak and zinc work surfaces, were made to her design, and are painted a soft stone shade.





SUNNY STYLE. Chunky open shelving and iridescent Moroccan Zellige tiles subtly hint at a sunnier climate.



Today, working as a stylist, Heidi has turned her love of unearthing unusual finds into a career, sourcing pieces for photography shoots and private clients at some of the best-known antiques fairs.

Heidi's elegant and serene home was born from a need for more space for her ever-expanding collections. "Our past house was built in the 1930s, and I craved something with more floor space." She adds, "I also love the lateral space Edwardian properties have to offer."

CLEVER UPDATES

The house, last decorated in the 1980s in a two-tone palette of green and yellow, required a complete overhaul, but the family gamely moved in, decamping from one floor to the next as they remodeled room after room.

On the ground floor, a dingy side return was filled in with a small extension that opens up to

[BELOW] MERCHANDISE LIKE A PRO. The design for the cubbyhole storage was inspired by the shelving in a home décor shop that Heidi and her children used to pass every day on their way to school. "I took my cabinet guy along and asked him to build me the same," she explains.



[ABOVE] INDOOR/OUTDOOR CONNECTION. Heidi found these copper faucets in the garden. "It took a huge amount of persuading before my plumber agreed to install them," she says. "Now they get the most comments."



MAKING ROOM. While the new dining room extension did not dramatically increase the footprint of the property, it has given the home a new sense of space and light. Heidi used encaustic Moroccan tiles to create the effect of a rug beneath the dining table. The Belgian cabinet, found at an antiques market, travelled with the family from their previous home and was reinvented with moody gray paint.



the garden, dramatically improving the way the house connects with the exterior. This also enabled Heidi to block off the back door in the kitchen so she could design a full run of cabinets along this wall. "I like homey kitchens," she says of her painted cupboards, which she teamed with cubbyhole shelving for displaying kitchen paraphernalia, such as the storage jars of ingredients and vintage glass bottles she collects. "Perfect for displaying flowers," she notes.

BUILD IT IN. Heidi incorporated storage into every part of the house, including this slim alcove next to the hearth in the bathroom, where she installed shelving for some of her favorite interiors magazines, which she keeps for inspiration.



THOUGHTFUL DETAILS

The oak floor in the kitchen is edged with Belgian bluestone tiles, a striking effect that is also a practical solution for the high-traffic parts of the room. The subtle paint palette of grays is another favorite of Heidi's—soft shades that enhance the good natural light and form a neutral backdrop to her collections.



CURATED COLLECTIBLES

While treasured antiques and vintage finds define this home, there isn't a feeling of clutter, thanks to the way Heidi has grouped pieces together for impact. Her vintage mirror collection is hung en masse on the stairway walls, while tiny objects, from antique buttons to sand dollars collected on the beach, are neatly displayed in vintage trays incorporated into a glass-topped coffee table in the sitting room.

This installation was created with the help of Heidi's daughter Ella, whose own bedroom bears witness to the eye of a budding young stylist. "Gavin and I have always taken the children along to antiques fairs; it's a chance to give them a little history lesson as we go around," Heidi says. "These things are all part of our heritage; I could bore people forever with their stories. For me, they are what give a home its soul." 

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.



[ABOVE] EFFICIENT TRANSFORMATION.

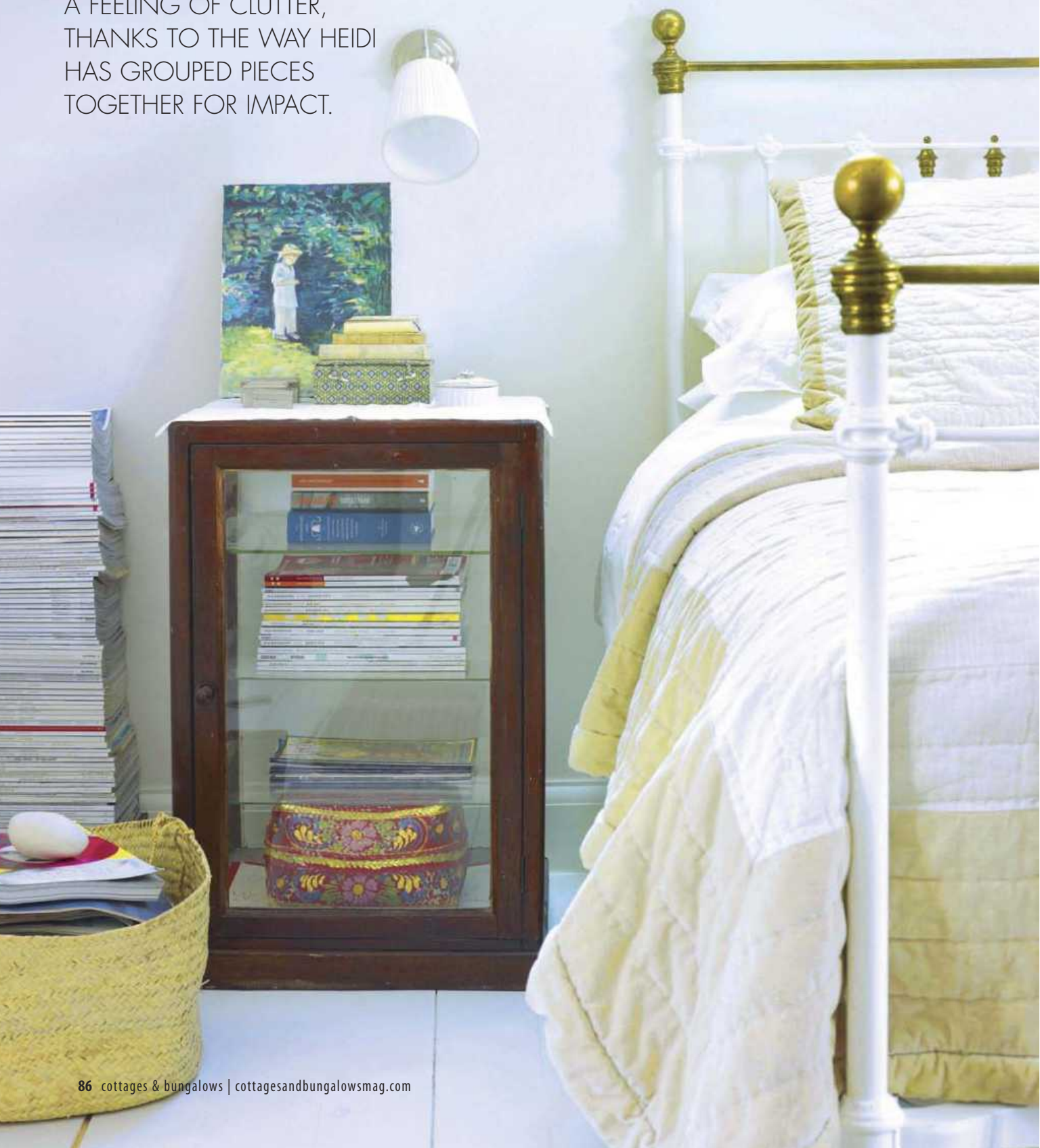
Featuring simple, glossy white doors, Heidi's dressing room was originally a tiny bedroom.

[LEFT AND OPPOSITE] RUSTIC CHARM. An iron and brass bedstead fits beautifully with the Edwardian style of the house. The original floorboards were sanded and painted white to brighten the space.

"THESE THINGS ARE ALL PART
OF OUR HERITAGE; I COULD
BORE PEOPLE FOREVER WITH
THEIR STORIES," SHE SAYS. "FOR
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WHILE TREASURED
ANTIQUES AND
VINTAGE FINDS DEFINE
THIS HOME, THERE ISN'T
A FEELING OF CLUTTER,
THANKS TO THE WAY HEIDI
HAS GROUPED PIECES
TOGETHER FOR IMPACT.






[ABOVE] B & B INFLUENCE. Once a self-contained apartment, the top floor is now a spacious master suite, complete with a roll-top bath in the bedroom. Inspired by a British B & B where Heidi once stayed, she found the iron bedstead in an antiques center and asked the seller to adjust it to suit a super-king mattress. The framed butterflies were an eBay find.



[LEFT] OLD WORLD CHARM. Beautiful encaustic tiles make a feature of the fireplace, above which a collection of British lead soldiers is displayed in vintage letter press trays.





POPS OF COLOR. A vintage striped blanket brings color to this predominantly white space. Each of the display boxes on the wall is lined with a different wallpaper design.

A Perfect Fit

This small space is packed with big ideas, thanks to a combination of classic style and modern technology.

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY MAGGIE COLVIN / NARRATIVES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT SANDERSON / NARRATIVES

While your personal style doesn't often alter

much, when it comes to your home, your needs may change. When Yolande and George Hesse began custom designing a home to retire in, they found themselves considering lifestyle elements they never had to think about before. With grown children out of the house and only a few career years left to consider, they wouldn't need a ton of space, but they didn't want to sacrifice convenient and easy living. They'd always loved country cottage style but knew that staying in a walkable neighborhood was also something they wanted. So the couple—an architect and a package designer—set out to blend their many needs into one petite yet perfect home.



STYLISH AND SIMPLE. Wooden planks laid horizontally create a Cape Cod ambience in the living room. Built-in storage was key to providing a place for the couple's collections without taking up valuable floor space.





FRESH LOOKS. A cozy hallway has a summery Scandinavian color scheme in blue and yellow. The couple painted the shiplap wall in this nook white to enhance the light and make the small area feel brighter.

BUILDING A NEST. The exposed beams lend a countryside feel, and to intensify light, the ceiling and beams were painted white in contrast to the natural pine planked walls.



"IN A SMALLISH SPACE YOU NEED TO RESTRICT PATTERN TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM VISUAL CALM."

A SMALL WONDER

The Hesses found a small simple old home with a pretty weatherboard façade, Georgian-style sash windows and a decorative porch. Inside there are key character elements: exposed beams, sky lights, vaulted ceilings on all of the first floor, tongue-and-groove boards in the bathrooms and a wood-burning stove flanked by alcoves in the sitting room. Different textures enrich the living room, including wooden planks, some painted and others left natural. "I always liked the Cape Cod look," says Yolande. "It is warm and romantic."

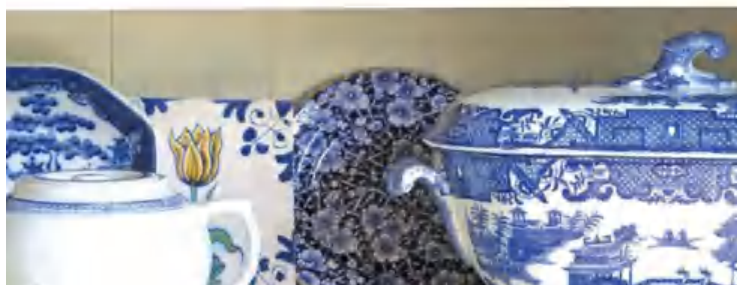
To create visual definition between areas of the living room, Yolande chose two different floor finishes: carpet for the sitting room and a wood floor for the kitchen/dining room, where the walls were painted pale gray. The sitting room is a combination of gray, rust and off-white, and Yolande maintained the visual calm of the cottage by repeating this color combination in other rooms.

MODERN COTTAGE

In contrast to its traditional appearance, the home's building materials are state of the art, and the fabric of the cottage is entirely SIP, which Yolande explains stands for Structurally Insulated Panels. "We are so well insulated our heating bills are thankfully low," she says.


As Yolande is an avid gardener, she squeezed pockets of garden to the side, front and rear of what is a limited size plot. Most of the outdoor area is a private, enclosed deck, which extends the living area, blurring the edges between inside and out. The decking is Millboard, a manmade composite that deters mold.

FEELING BLUE. Yolande's collection of Danish Blue china adds color and country charm to the simple space.



DINING WITH A VIEW. Yolande and George, avid entertainers, designed their dining room with a bank of sliding glass pocket doors that disappear into the walls and visually expand the living space. "We really enjoy the direct view of our sundeck from the dining room," Yolande smiles. Her choice of dining table, which expands to seat from four to twelve, makes this a flexible dining space.





BRIGHTER WHITES. "Beams combined with a sloping ceiling punctuated with skylights create the character that is essential when building new," Yolande says. The painted kitchen cabinetry with walnut countertops envelope the island unit, designed by Yolande and made by Farnham Furnishers.

YOLANDE EXPLAINS
WHY SHE HAD TO
BUY A DINING TABLE
WHICH EXPANDS TO
SEAT FROM FOUR TO
TWELVE: "WHEN YOUR
CHILDREN LEAVE HOME
YOU NEED FEWER
BEDROOMS BUT A
LARGE MULTIPURPOSE
LIVING SPACE."




EASY CARE CHOICES

George is happy with their choice of materials, which make the cottage almost maintenance free. "The windows are made from Accoya timber, which extends the life of the wood, and the weather-board is made from prepainted fiber cement so it won't warp or rot," he says. "The gutters are powder-coated aluminum and the decking is Millboard ... If and when we want to travel, the cottage is easy to lock up and go," he adds.


COUNTRY ROMANCE. The couple stayed away from a heavy wooden bed for their bedroom for fear it would take up too much visual space. "The iron bed fits perfectly into the style of this cottage, and it is an old friend. We have had it since we were first married," Yolande says. Red floral patterns and light oak are a timeless combination of natural and feminine looks.





DIVINE DETAILS

Yolande gave a lot of attention to the lighting because, as she says, "Natural wood planks look best when spot lit, and so we chose different angled spots specifically to light walls and others to light paintings." The overall effect is subtle but creates a space that, though small, feels airy and bright.

"Color in paintings is important, because apart from them, most of my soft furnishings are plain. Pattern creates visual busyness, which I don't find very peaceful," she says. Peace is a definite quality in the cottage and it is a reason why, as Yolande explains, "After a busy day in the office, this is the place we love to come back to. Not needing to use a car is a big luxury too. The town is on our doorstep, yet views out of our windows are countrified and so pretty." 

ALL THE TRIMMINGS. The bathroom picks up the cottage style of the master bedroom, but as a contrast the planking on its walls runs vertically instead of horizontally. The countertop basin and vanity unit were designed by Yolande and custom made.

YOLANDE AND GEORGE

HESSE BUILT THEMSELVES A
COMPACT MODERN COTTAGE AS
A HOME TO RETIRE TO ONE DAY,
COMBINING THE VERY LATEST
TECHNOLOGY WITH
OLD-FASHIONED CHARM.



NATURE AT HOME. "Our courtyard garden feels like an outdoor room," Yolande says, explaining how laying similar style wooden floors blurs the edges of inside and out. Linked to the dining room by folding doors and surrounded by high walls, the courtyard is a windproof sun trap.



CAPE COD CHARM. The cottage, designed by Back to Front, combines the picturesque features that are hallmarks of the company Yolande and George set up together.





THE NEW YORK TIMES
COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF THE WORLD

GERMAN

GENIUS?

GOOD BOOK

WILDS

SOULFUL

VOLTAIRE

CATHERINE

It's a Small World

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY SVEN
ALBERDING/BUREAUX
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICKY HOYLE/BUREAUX

No space? No problem!
Terrarium gardens are the
perfect fit for any room—
learn the history of
this popular accent and
how to create your own
miniature biotope.



Terrariums are all the rage today, but did you know these glass-encased charmers have a long history that predates any current trends? It all began with Dr. Nathaniel Ward in 1829. Ward was a physician in London and, like the rest of the empire, obsessed with collecting things. Colonies, animals, plants—Britain's thirst for all things exotic was in full swing. Transport took a long time, often many months, and most birds, bees and trees didn't make it to London.

Dr. Ward kept moths' cocoons in sealed glass bottles and by accident he found a fern had germinated inside, followed by some grass. And so the Wardian case was born.

CASE CLOSED

The premise of Ward's discovery was simple: to grow plants in closed glass cases, where condensation provided moisture and humidity, while dead leaves and other debris supplied nourishment.

Ward found that the longer the containers were kept closed, the better the plants grew—and finally, exotic plants were thriving, protected from the generally unsuitable growing conditions of Victorian-era London.

But the Wardian case wasn't just a tank of pretty flowers. Since most plants being shipped between continents died from a lack of fresh water and the constant salt spray at sea, the invention was immediately put to good use.

Wardian cases were installed on ships to travel the high seas. At first, tea plants were smuggled out of Shanghai and shipped off to British India, destination Assam. Then rubber trees left Brazil for the colonies of Ceylon and Malaya—to start a massive industry there.

THE FROG WHO LOVED ME

The 1970s saw a revival of the case, as what we now refer to as the terrarium garden. While macramé wall hangings adorned the lounge and bell-bottoms swept the disco dance floors, the terrarium garden was another must-have of the decade.

“THE 1970S SAW A REVIVAL OF THE CASE, AS WHAT WE NOW REFER TO AS THE TERRARIUM GARDEN.”






However, the essence of the closed case was discarded; now it was more a decorative display in glass, a way to view roots and shoots in a contained environment. And with it a new trend—fauna. Frogs, mostly green and feasting on flies supplied by the kids, they were part of the family and provided for endless hours of entertainment for all.

FAST FORWARD

With the current trend for all things green and growing, it's no wonder the terrarium garden has made a comeback again. This time it's not about the frog but about space. More and more people live in small environments, with little access to proper gardening setups.

Terrarium gardens are perfect for mini-landscaping. We kept the lid off of most of our versions here, but it's entirely up to you if you want to control a Wardian case or let things go in a mini jungle where the sky's the limit. 



"WITH THE CURRENT TREND FOR ALL THINGS GREEN AND GROWING, IT'S NO WONDER THE TERRARIUM GARDEN HAS MADE A COMEBACK AGAIN."



WHAT TO PLANT

Plants suitable for terrariums must fulfill these basic requirements: they must enjoy high humidity and low to moderate light levels, and they must remain relatively small.

HERE'S A LIST OF THE TOP 10 PLANTS THAT WILL LOVE A GLASS HOUSE:

- Ferns
- Selaginella moss
- Miniature orchids
- African violets
- Tillandsias (air plants)
- Carnivorous plants
- *Helxine soleirolii* (peace in the home)
 - Coleus
 - Cyclamens
 - Pileas

HOW TO MAKE A TERRARIUM GARDEN

THE GREAT THING ABOUT TERRARIUM GARDENS IS THAT THEY ARE EASY TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN—AND EASY ON THE BANK ACCOUNT TOO.

- ✓ Start with any glass container with an opening that's big enough to fit your hand through. Clean it properly and rinse off any soap.

- ✓ Begin with a base layer of pebbles, followed by some horticultural charcoal. The charcoal is particularly important in closed cases because it keeps the air clean of any fumes due to decomposing plant material.

- ✓ On top of the charcoal goes a thick layer of potting soil and, voilà, you're ready to plant.

- ✓ Also try adding some moss in areas between plants to retain more moisture in the soil.





TINY TANKS. Make your miniature landscapes diverse for the most impact. This tank contains a mix of African violets, ferns and tillandsias for a bold blend.



RUSTIC RETREAT

THIS NEWLY DESIGNED BATHHOUSE
PRESERVES THE BUCOLIC CHARM OF
THE SURROUNDING DAIRY FARM.

BY MICHELLE R. PRATHER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF ZARUBA

COASTAL LIVING requires durable materials. "We used galvanized sheet metal, sealed board and batt siding," says Heidi. "We also painted the plywood and MDO board white."

A

dding on to an established property

with a rich history and an enviable pastoral backdrop doesn't have to be a war of old versus new. With simple interiors, Shaker-style furniture and key elements of farmhouse style, this bathhouse situated on a family-owned dairy farm on Northern California's Point Reyes peninsula exudes the feel of a well-preserved rustic retreat, even though it was built just a few years ago.

Before the construction of the bathhouse, the property was a scattering of farm buildings, a main house, and tent platforms and sleeping quarters for when extended family gathered for summer R & R. But what the near-perfect seaside escape lacked were amenities close to the campsite. Heidi Richardson, principal of Richardson Architects in Mill Valley, California, was called in to design a structure that provided the basic comforts of home while retaining the feel of setting up camp in a woodsy locale.





IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

When creating a special place for family and friends to savor their downtime, consider what design details will make the lodging cozy for everyone. "The fact that the place would be used by children and as a family camp did impact our design choices," Heidi says. "We wanted the design to embrace a fun and whimsical character, as well as be practical."

Splashes of vibrant primary colors indoors are well suited to cheery and energetic younger visitors, as are the chalkboard wall and wraparound porch Heidi installed with the newest generation of her clients' family in mind. Simple, sturdy furniture that can withstand all the wear and tear that comes with summer fun was a must.

As for one of the most important aspects of the bathhouse—the bathroom—Heidi chose to go with two toilet stalls and two shower stalls, rather than construct one large bathroom. This allowed her to enhance the functionality of the space and also differentiate a stay at this outdoorsy site from a stay at the main house.

THE BATHHOUSE features two toilet stalls and two shower stalls, providing more convenience to visitors and complementing the bathhouse's rustic feel.

MAKE THE MOST OF IT

The bathhouse is a mere 260 square feet, but with nature on her side, Heidi managed to give the postage-stamp-sized dwelling an airy, welcoming feel. To add height, she opted for a pitched roof, which also helped maximize the natural light.

Her goal for the interior was to achieve a level of simplicity that wouldn't detract from the farmhouse atmosphere or make the living quarters feel cramped. She painted the walls white and chose understated furnishings and accessories, including a rustic settee from an antiques market, a braided rug and custom-made red-and-white checkerboard bedspreads in the bedroom.

In the end, all the attention devoted to scaling back and keeping things basic resulted in one beautiful little gem, inside and out. **CB**

"THE RED ROOF coupled with the white façade gives the bathhouse a charming farmhouse look," says Heidi. The chalkboard was a fun touch for guests of all ages.

Beauty in Simplicity

Heidi's Dos and Don'ts for Designing in a
NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL SETTING

- 1. DON'T OVERDESIGN.** "The key was to get the proportions of the [bathhouse] just right and to maximize the tiny footprint," Heidi says. Getting the correct scale of the doors and windows was crucial, as was simplifying the details.
- 2. DON'T COMPETE WITH THE SURROUNDINGS.** The bathhouse was designed to complement the existing farm buildings and dairy land. A design anomaly would have interrupted the harmony of the property.
- 3. DO LIMIT THE CHOICE OF MATERIALS.** Especially in a pastoral setting, using a few materials suited for the project and environs will go a long way.
- 4. DO KEEP THE COLOR PALETTE SIMPLE AND BRIGHT.** "Select a single color palette," Heidi recommends. "We opted for a bright palette of primary colors with a strong red-and-white story."
- 5. DO INVEST IN CRAFTSMANSHIP AND QUALITY MATERIALS.** To create a structure that will withstand the elements, choose noncorrosive and wear-resistant materials.





THE WRAPAROUND PORCH is multigenerational, entertaining and relaxing. It doesn't take much to outfit a cozy porch: a free-form bench complements the rustic setting, and a few hooks on the wall keep wet clothes outside.



WELCOME, Neighbor

Create warm and inviting outdoor living spaces using tried-and-true interior design rules.

BY DEVLIN SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROY THIES PHOTOGRAPHY

STYLING BY LAURA ENGEN AND

ROB EDMAN


SYMMETRY IS THE KEY to maximizing the focal point of this newly added fireplace. A bold geometric print rug adds a modern spin to classic design.



W

HEN THE OWNERS OF THIS 1926 MINNEAPOLIS HOME UNDERTOOK A RENOVATION, THEY INCLUDED THE OUTDOOR SPACES IN THEIR PLANS. THE HOME NOW INCLUDES NEWLY BUILT FRONT AND BACK PORCHES THAT DESIGNERS LAURA ENGEN OF LAURA ENGEN INTERIOR DESIGN AND ROB EDMAN OF EDMAN HILL INTERIOR DESIGN TRANSFORMED INTO THREE OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES THAT COORDINATE WITH THE HOME'S INTERIOR AND WELCOME NEIGHBORS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS MOST OF THE YEAR.

"BOTH PORCHES WERE COMPLETELY NEW SO WE HAD A BLANK SLATE TO WORK WITH," LAURA SAYS.



"WE LOVE THAT EVERYTHING
LOOKS LIKE
IT COULD BE USED INDOORS
AS WELL."

THE SCREEN PORCH in back features an outdoor living room, complete with fireplace and big-screen TV.



The goal for the 325-square-foot front porch was for it to be a gathering place where the family could chat with neighbors and also roast marshmallows. The designers delivered, giving the family a seating area with a brand-new fireplace and a separate conversation area with a porch swing.


The blue palette, which is also followed inside the house, informed the fabric and décor choices for the front porch and was carried over into the back screened porch. The homeowner uses that 175-square-foot poolside space for entertaining family, enjoying a second brand-new fireplace and watching TV.

"All spaces were designed at the same time, so we had the opportunity to coordinate with the adjacent rooms to make them feel like they flowed together," Laura says. "By using similar colors and textures, we came up with a cohesive look."

Durability was a must in the selection of furnishings, fabrics and accessories for the three outdoor living spaces. "The homeowners requested high-end, heavy-duty outdoor furniture and fabrics that would hold up to the outdoors and their family," Laura says. "We balanced the budget by using less-expensive pieces like the Crate and Barrel stump accent tables to complete the look."

The durable wicker furnishings Laura and Rob selected feel like living room furniture, a plus for the designers and homeowner. "We love that everything looks like it could be used indoors as well," Laura says. "It doesn't scream 'outdoor furniture.'"

For these designers, outdoor looks are sometimes brought inside, too, such as fabrics.

"There are so many wonderful outdoor fabrics available, they're made for soil-, stain-, mildew- and fade-resistance, usually acrylic or polyester," Laura says. "Sometimes we use outdoor fabrics indoors because they're so durable and good-looking." 

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.



"...WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO COORDINATE WITH THE ADJACENT ROOMS TO MAKE THEM FEEL LIKE THEY FLOWED TOGETHER," LAURA SAYS. "BY USING SIMILAR COLORS AND TEXTURES, WE CAME UP WITH A COHESIVE LOOK."

The Swing of Things

Designer Laura Engen offers advice on installing a porch swing.

- ➡ There are multiple considerations when adding a swing to your porch. If you're planning to hang it, consult the experts to make sure it's done properly and safely. You may also want to consider purchasing a glider or framed swing to minimize the installation concerns.
- ➡ Regardless of the type of swing you purchase for your porch, placement is key.
- ➡ "Consider what the view looks like when you sit in the swing," Laura says. "Do you want to look at your neighbor's house or the street? Do you have a landscape feature that you admire, or maybe you have a fireplace you want to cozy up next to? Determine what the purpose of the swing is, and then decide what placement makes the most sense."
- ➡ The original plan was to locate this swing fireside, but space didn't permit it. The swing is now located in front of the French doors that lead to the sunroom, which gave new character to the front porch.
- ➡ "It felt natural to anchor the porch on the far end with the swing," Laura says.

A CARPENTER WAS BROUGHT in to hang the swing, ensuring the porch structure was properly reinforced for the installation.



Four Seasons

THE FRONT PORCH
features a cozy seating
area in front of a fireplace
and a separate conversa-
tion area with a swing.

Follow these tips for designing an outdoor space you can use year round.



Weather permitting, these homeowners plan to use their porch most of the year. (The Minneapolis winter snow will prevent them from enjoying it year round). Designers Laura Engen and Rob Edman made a variety of choices that will allow the homeowners to use these spaces across the seasons, including selecting durable furnishings and fabrics, and installing ceiling fans and fireplaces.



Laura offers this advice when creating an outdoor space that can be used year-round. "Keep in mind how you use the space," she says. "Are you entertaining lots of guests, where you need to seat large groups of people, or is it a more intimate space for the family, where you only need a few comfy seats? Also, think about the temperature changes throughout the year and how those affect how you use the space. Adding a ceiling fan will be useful on a hot summer day, and a fireplace will be great on those cool days."



If you're not able to use your space year-round, caring for your furnishings and accessories has to be part of your plan. Invest in coverings, and be sure to have enough space to store those pieces.



FOR MORE ON LAURA, VISIT LAURAENGEN.COM. FOR MORE ON ROB, VISIT EDMANHILL.COM.

THE HOMEOWNERS WANTED to create a space on the front porch to gather with neighbors.







How Do You Like Your Eggs?

Awaken from winter to celebrate this enduring decorating
inspiration and ageless symbol of spring.

BY HILLARY BLACK



Ah, the venerable egg.

There is no more perfect time to reflect on decorating with this timeless symbol than springtime. Certainly spring is the time to decorate Easter eggs, and many have enjoyed the fun of dipping a hard-boiled egg into a warm bath of color. Some cultures have taken this age-old pastime to a whole other level.

Pysanka, Ukrainian Easter eggs, are elaborately decorated with symbols and colors. The technique uses a wax and dye method similar to batik. Most famous perhaps are intricate Fabergé eggs, richly ornate in gold and enamel. The first one was created in 1884 by the House of Fabergé under master goldsmith Peter Carl Fabergé; the Russian czar gave it to his wife as an Easter gift.


And then, of course, there is imperfect perfection—the simplicity of nature's paintbrush on real birds' eggs. It's good to know that egg artists today use only farm-raised eggs for their craft, according to The International Egg Art Guild. In fact, federal law prohibits the use of wild bird eggs. But what about decorating with eggs?

EGG AESTHETICS

Decorating with real eggs or with items inspired by them can bring an element of spring and renewal to your home. There are artists who recreate and elevate nature's beauty in prints, textiles—even soaps. New York designer Jim Schatz makes a ceramic egg night light that comes in myriad colors and is covered with tiny holes. When lit, it creates "stars," as on a crisp spring night, that appear on your walls.

Many have been inspired by the timeless blue of a robin's egg—in paint, bedding and various décor items. Nigella Lawson's serenely-shaped blue egg bowls and platters will make you smile each time you reach for them.

Get out in the spring air for a refreshing hike, and you may even come across some eggshells left behind by a newly-hatched bird. Gently wash them with dish soap, rinse and dry them thoroughly before displaying. In general, keep your displays simple so the beauty of nature's eggs or decorated eggs can shine.





EGG COLORING FOR ADULTS. To make “watercolor vines in grass” as Matthew Mead describes in *Easter Eggs*, decorate a hen’s egg using watercolors in spring green, and display it on a bed of wheat grass, easily found in health food stores. Keep hard-boiled eggs refrigerated until you’re ready to display and eat them. For a longer-lasting display, blow out the inside of the egg, wash it carefully with soapy water and dry it thoroughly before decorating.

Egg Décor Scramble

Expert tips on decorating with eggs

Turn plastic Easter eggs into a year-round décor accent by painting them with chalk paint in muted tones. Display them in bowls, on tabletops and in other decorative vignettes for an earthy chic look.

Whether you're displaying hand-decorated eggs or showing off an egg's natural beauty, try using egg cups, juice glasses, footed glasses, salt cellars and small bowls as well as ready-made egg stands to vary height and visual interest.

Use extra-large eggshells, blown out and dried; then paint them with acrylic color or dip them in a dye bath. Carefully remove the top third of the shell. Add tealight candles to make "candles on the half shell," and set them atop egg cups before lighting.



PHOTO BY JAMIE ITAGAKI



[FAR LEFT] ARTFULLY INSPIRED. Eggs have been a spring motif since at least the 17th century. Set your sights on collectible egg prints like this one. **PRO TIP:** share your hunt idea with your local antiques dealer and have him or her keep an eye out for new finds.

[LEFT] SPRINGTIME GEMS. Unadorned except by nature, quail eggs are like exquisite jewels when arranged against the backdrop of a white ceramic plate. You can purchase quail eggs at most specialty markets.

EGG-CELLENT. A decorated egg can add panache to a tassel. Hang one with a key from a favorite armoire or desk drawer. Use acrylic paints and a stencil to get a finely finished look.

For more about "Candles on the Half Shell," "Watercolor Vines in Grass," and "Cupboard Tassel," as well as more decorating crafts, see *Easter Eggs: 40 Fabulous Projects for the Whole Family* by Matthew Mead, published by Chronicle Books. Photographs copyright © 2007 by Matthew Mead; text copyright © 2007 by Downtown Bookworks, Inc.

Décor in

Transform eclectic colors, patterns, shapes and sizes into a bright and colorful wonderland that reflects your personal style.

Bloom

BY LINDSEY STEFFES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARYN CAIRNS AND FELIX FOREST





ever heard the phrase, "Less is more?" Designer Anna Spiro disagrees. In her new book *Absolutely Beautiful Things*, Spiro dives into a bright, bold and fabulous world, full of color, vibrant patterns and quirky personal touches. She asks readers to forget about the principles of sleek, contemporary design. "I believe in the concept of the more you layer, the better," she writes. "I'm a maximalist, not a minimalist."

GLEAN INSPIRATION

Spiro's passion for punchy personal style dates back to the influence of her mother, grandmothers and aunt, who instilled her with confidence, individual style, a love of art and an eye for design. "Rummaging through antique stores with Mum and Grandma helped me gain knowledge of what to look for in the perfect piece of furniture," she writes.

As you develop your own style, don't be afraid to incorporate offbeat elements that remind you of your childhood or speak to who you are now. "The main thing I've learned is, at its best, your home should be a true reflection of you," she writes. If this means pairing your great-grandmother's rocking chair with a midcentury side table and floral lampshade, that's OK—just take what you love and run with it.



SUMMER LOVING. Patterns are a great way to signify the seasons. Here, a vibrant suzani tapestry draped over the ottoman instantly transforms the vibe of the room while a gingham slipcover—a classic summer pattern—updates the daybed.

MIX, DON'T MATCH

With a bold and whimsical mélange of color, patterns, textures and shapes, Spiro's designs sing with excitement and passion. Each room is a series of discoveries: wild prints, unusual fabrics, modern pieces and family heirlooms. "It's important to collect things over time—and only things you love or that have meaning to you—and let your home gradually evolve," Spiro writes. "That way you come to notice common factors or special threads that bind everything together."

Spiro encourages blossoming designers to mix everything based on what they love, creating a distinctive personal style. That way, no two rooms look alike. "In my family home and the houses I design, I always endeavor to create happy, interesting, layered and uplifting spaces," she writes. "This means mixing everything: color and pattern, old and new, square and round, quirky and conservative. It is by no means a perfect, textbook decorating style (in fact, some people might be horrified by it), but it's the imperfections and the surprises that make a space interesting, appropriate and so special and unique for the people living there."

GO CRAZY FOR COLOR

Spiro creates surprises in every room with the courageous use of color. When you look at your own home, consider the harmony of the room and balance it with natural patterns, textures and colors. "Bright color + natural color = colorful success," Spiro says. "If you use too much color with too few natural elements, the result will be an unattractive, fairy-floss mess! It really is like making a cake—too much or too little of one ingredient can spoil the whole thing."

Figuring out your personal style and palette isn't always easy. "Learning to trust your instincts does take time," Spiro writes. "Some people think too hard about style choices. If you like something, do it." Take that leap with Spiro as your guide. Express yourself, room to room, with daring décor, colorful surprises and a magical mix of all your favorite things. **CB**



[ABOVE] WILD AT HEART. Use powerful primary colors, eclectic artwork and striped, floral and geometric patterns to spice up your rooms. Don't hesitate to mix the old with the new. Reupholster an antique chair in a vibrant, statement fabric, or pair a traditional still life with pop art.

[OPPOSITE] TIME TRAVELER. Spiro pulls off this eye-catching blue-and-yellow look with a few antiques and a touch of natural brown. "I believe no room, even the most colorful, should be without a bit of brown," she writes. "Whether it's in the timber of a side table or sideboard, brown provides a grounding."



"I ALWAYS ENDEAVOR TO CREATE
HAPPY, INTERESTING, LAYERED AND
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THIS MEANS MIXING EVERYTHING: COLOR
AND PATTERN, OLD AND NEW, SQUARE AND
ROUND, QUIRKY AND CONSERVATIVE."



BRIGHT BANQUETTE. A white backdrop sets the stage for this colorful banquette. Dare to decorate with chairs in different colors, throw pillows in mixed patterns and loud, dazzling artwork.



From Basic to Beautiful

Whip dull, boring rooms into shape with Anna Spiro's insider tips.

Colorful Canvas. When it comes to redecorating, first choose a base color that will pull the room together. "I usually start with either black or navy as the base color," Spiro writes. "Choosing a dark color provides a scheme with strength upon which a multitude of bright colors in patterns on fabrics, artwork and rugs can be layered." White walls make the best backdrop for a colorful room.

Fabulous Fabrics. Don't shy away from the bold and the brilliant. Start with what Spiro calls a "trophy fabric," a multicolored fabric with spunk and bravado. Use it on something small like a cushion, ottoman or stool, and work from there. Diversify your palette with a mix of fabrics in different colors, textures and patterns. Spiro suggests using "antique furniture, such as a table, sideboard or chest of drawers" to ground colorful fabrics.

Surprising Touches. It's time to finish with unexpected and elegant pieces that keep a room looking fresh. "Mix expensive with inexpensive, modern with antique, timber with metal, objects of different heights, the rough with the refined," Spiro writes. "The most important thing is to know what you love and know what you don't love. Once you have that sorted, you can do anything."



Absolutely Beautiful Things
by Anna Spiro, published by
Conran Octopus Ltd., © 2015;
octopusbooksusa.com.

Container Planting 101

LINING. Over time, metal in contact with water will rust. If you want your planter to look aged, then a little rust won't matter. If not, you'll want to line your container with a sturdy plastic sheet to protect it from the moisture.

DRAINAGE. Most plants will rot if their roots sit in water. If your container doesn't have holes in the bottom, add a layer of small stones or pea gravel to the bottom of the container before you add dirt. This should help the water drain down without sitting in the soil.

FERTILIZER. Plants need nutrients in the soil, and those in containers are no different. Make sure you add fertilizer to the container as often as your plants need—this will vary depending on the species.

SUCCULENT SPECIFIC—DON'T OVERWATER! Succulents are used to harsh climates, and too much water will result in rotten roots. Only water them when the soil feels completely dry.

RECYCLED PLANTER. Recycle an old door or window shutter by hanging galvanized planters on the front. The end result is a colorful and bright piece you can install inside or in your yard.

Industrial Charm

Spruce up your yard this spring with a galvanized metal planting project.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA PUTNAM

aPRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, so it's time to get your hands dirty and create some living accents. In her new book *DIY Rustic Modern Metal Crafts*, Laura Putnam shares 35 techniques and projects that use galvanized metal. "Galvanized materials are simply iron or steel items that have been coated in a layer of zinc," she says. Durable and sturdy with cottage-worthy rustic charm, galvanized metal is your new DIY material of choice. The galvanized look is perfect for both outdoors and indoors, and works especially well with live plants. "I love the contrast of the color and the texture of the flowers with the rustic texture of the galvanized metal," Putnam writes. Here are the basics you need to get started.

VINTAGE OR NEW?

You can use either weathered or new galvanized objects for your projects. "A vintage piece is going to be a unique option and may be one of a kind and have a beautiful patina, while a new piece is going to be easier to find and have a nice shine to it," Putnam writes. Think about the project you want to do and whether a new or used item would better suit the finished item.

WHERE AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR

If you're looking for vintage items, start at flea markets, thrift stores and garage sales. "You have to look at things with an open eye because they may be dirty or placed in a section with automotive parts that you

LIGHT THE WAY. "Whether indoors or outdoors, there is something so magical about a space lit up with candle luminaries," Putnam writes. To make these beauties, simply mark a pattern on the outside of galvanized buckets and drill holes to illuminate the pattern.





STOVE GARDEN. “I stumbled upon stove end caps in a hardware store and found that they make the perfect vessel for succulents. Not only do they look great, but they are inexpensive and come in many different sizes to fuel your creativity,” Putnam says.




DIY Rustic Modern Metal Crafts: 35 Creative Upcycling Ideas for Galvanized Metal by Laura Putnam, published by Adams Media, © 2015; adamsmedia.com.

might not normally dig through,” Putnam says. If you don’t have luck with these sources, try an online search. “I have had my best luck on Etsy but have also found pieces on eBay,” Putnam writes. For new materials, look at hardware stores and even feed-supply stores.

What kinds of items should you look for? Putnam suggests everything from sheet metal, buckets and tins to feeding vessels, stove end caps and strap iron. If it’s galvanized, grab it.

AGE IT

If you want a new galvanized piece to look old, you can easily age it. All you’ll need is some white vinegar. “If left on for several hours, it removes the zinc coating and ages galvanized metal,” Putnam writes. You can submerge small pieces directly into the vinegar; for larger pieces, lay a vinegar-soaked rag on the metal.

Keep an eye on the piece as it soaks—“every single piece you work with, even if you use the same technique, will respond differently,” Putnam writes. Also keep in mind that by aging the piece, you’re removing its protective zinc coating. “This can lead to rust or additional wear over time,” she says. 

KITCHEN SCRAPS. Turn a chicken feeder into an herb planter! Just make sure to space out the plants so their roots have room to grow. Then add plant markers to help you keep track, and you’ll have fresh herbs to add to your next casserole.



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DESIGN BY MICHAEL WHALEY, PHOTOGRAPH BY DURSTON SAYLOR

From Simple

These tips from the famous design firm Parish-Hadley will transform your cottage from plain to posh.

BY ELIZABETH T. PARDO

to Stylish



HOLLYWOOD HAD HEPBURN AND TRACY.

The interior design world had Sister Parish and Albert Hadley. But instead of translating their brand of elegance and glamour onto the silver screen, this design duo was using people's homes as their theater. In their new book *Parish-Hadley Tree of Life*, Brian McCarthy and Bunny Williams interview the firm's stylists and decorators to discuss the Parish-Hadley way of creating a vivid and unique look.

GET THE VISION

Bunny Williams believes the place to start is with stark honesty. "You walk in, it's like a doctor giving a patient a checkup: What's good here, what's bad there, and then you come up with a plan to fix it." Libby Cameron, part of the Parish-Hadley flock, believes the way to begin is where the professional decorators start—"with the floor plan and a stack of photographs—today, all of that is on the computer—of what you had and what you needed."

ONCE YOU FIND A COLOR or

palette you love, showcase it wherever you can. These custom-made chairs anchor the sofa in the center and flow together, along with the curtains and carpet, using a muted blue scheme.

read a room

So, what do you have and what do you need? After being honest about how you plan to use each room, make a checklist of the features you already have that work with your home, such as original crown molding or slightly weathered wood floors. Then list which areas you'll need to work on in order to get your ideal look. A narrow floor plan or midcentury architecture might call for more adjustments.

Libby also recommends a good, solid game plan before you arrange even one piece of furniture. "Designing a room is a thought process—to be careful about repetition, to make sure that everything works," she says. "Then you'll come up with schemes, beginning with the rug." If rugs really don't figure in your décor plans, nix that item and move on to the rest. "It is all about proportion," Libby continues. After

TAKE A TIP from the Parish-Hadley play-book and bring the outdoors inside by adding live plants. For an even homier cottage feel, replace the doors to your dining room with recycled barn doors.

The Parish-Hadley School of Simple Style

3 easy tips to design your home the Parish-Hadley way

Texture Transformation. Don't be afraid to mix different textures. Explore your options, and see what materials will add an extra layer to give the eye something more to admire.

Conspicuous Color. Add as much or as little color as the design of the room dictates. Most Parish-Hadley designers tie their rooms together with bold, brightly colored patterns.

Say No to Clutter. Gary Hager, one of the designers for Parish-Hadley, asks, "Space is such a luxury, why give it up to clutter and confusion?" You may be a collector of treasures, but consider breaking up your collections and sprinkling them around the rooms grouped by similar palettes and themes.







Parish-Hadley Tree of Life by Brian McCarthy and Bunny Williams, published by Abrams Publishing, © 2015; abramsbooks.com.

BOLD LINES FOR THE CARPET, bright floral furniture prints and colorful wall patterns create a unique look in any room. Pair opposing colors and patterns, and see what happens

considering and designing the proportions for each room or each section of a room, it's time to "get it schemed ... finding the lamps, the tables and all the different pieces that fill the house."

IMPLEMENT YOUR IDEAS

So you've picked out lamps, tables, chairs and rugs. You've created a mental picture, hand drawing or digital rendering of the way you want each room to look. Now it's time to implement that look. But don't be surprised if it's not quite what you expected. If the rug doesn't go with the carpet or the

couch makes the room feel cramped, don't panic—that's part of the process.

Take another look and assess the weak points. For Libby, one of the most important parts of designing each individual room is the way it uses space. "That is always important—getting the rooms to flow properly," she says. You might need to add or remove a few furnishings, depending on what is or isn't working. Be critical about the space. Think about your guests and consider each room's functionality; then give it another shot. Other themes to consider are the color and the

patterns. For cottage style, think floral and bright patterns.

Libby's parting advice? Let your home represent you in every way. "Design is an attempt to punctuate a way of life: the choice of certain materials for certain things," she says. Parish-Hadley is one of the world's leading companies in design; they use careful planning and discrimination to create the ideal space—and you can too, with thoughtful planning, implementation and revisions. 

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Construction: Chelsea Construction Corp., visit chelseaconstructioncorp.com.

Architecture: Susan Masterman Architects, visit susanmasterman.com.

Cabinetry: Charlton Cabinets, visit charltoncabinets.com.

Faucet: Country Bridge by Rohl with levers in nickel, visit rohlhome.com.

Painting: Johnny Apodaca, visit curreycodealers.com.

Paint: Pewter, visit benjaminmoore.com.



SPRINGTIME REDUX

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For more on Lieve Saether's designs, visit turnstyleid.com.

Rustic entryway console, striped rug, pillows: Layla Grayce, (626) 356-2133 or laylagrayce.com.

Inlay mirror: Zinc Door, (626) 356-2133 or zincdoor.com.

Coat hooks: Land of Nod, (800) 933-9904 or landofnod.com.

Pillows, dining-room rug: Anthropologie, (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.

Shag rug: nuLOOM, (646) 964-5518 or nuloom.com.

Leather recliners: Restoration Hardware, (800) 910-9836 or restorationhardware.com.

Zambia bench: Safavieh, (866) 422-9070 or safavieh.com.

Side table: Gray & Turner, visit bethangray.com.

Custom window treatments, custom bench cushion: Turnstyle Design, visit turnstyleid.com.

South Sea pearls mini brick tile: Design Elements, visit glasstilestore.com.

Brass knobs and pulls: Atlas Home, (800) 799-6755 or atlashomewares.com.

Kitchen fixtures: Brizo, (877) 345-2749 or brizo.com.

Appliances: Jenn-Air, (800) 536-6247 or jennair.com.

Hickory hardwood flooring: Armstrong, (800) 233-3823 or armstrong.com.

Collybrooke countertop: Cambria, (866) 226-2742 or cambriausa.com.

Dining table: Jayson Home, (800) 472-1885 or jaysonhome.com.

Metal dining chairs: West Elm, (888) 922-4119 or westelm.com.

Riviera side chairs: Serena & Lily, (866) 597-2742 or serenaandlily.com.

Chandelier: Savoy House Lighting, visit savoyhouse.com.

Art print: Society6, visit society6.com.

Herringbone slope arm sofa: Room & Board, (800) 301-9720 or roomandboard.com.

Living room rug: Oriental Rug Gallery, visit rugstudio.com.

Custom upholstered living-room chairs: Loft Home, (512) 377-6857 or lofthome.com.

Plant stand: Vintage.

BLUE & WHITE DELIGHT

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Guest-bedroom headboard: Thomasville, visit thomasville.com.

Outdoor pillow fabric: Sunbrella, visit sunbrella.com.

Art: John Botz, visit 1stdibs.com.



Wall-to-Wall

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
THIBAUT FABRICS

Use floral wallpaper to freshen up a room just in time for spring.

Wallpaper is an easy way to change up the look of a space, but many people shy away from it for fear that it will be too much or look old-fashioned. Wallpaper is still a great décor choice—the trick is to make it look fresh and modern instead of stuffy and outdated. Here are a few tips.

USE BRIGHT COLORS. This floral print by Thibaut Design employs vivid pinks, blues and yellows against a pale aqua background. Notice, however, that the whole pattern doesn't have to be bright to give a fresh feel to the room. The pastel aqua complements the brighter floral pattern.

OFFSET THE WALLPAPER WITH WHITE. The wallpaper in this breakfast room doesn't reach all the way to the floor. Instead, white panels with a border of crown molding border separate the wallpaper from the wood floors. This gives the eye some breathing room, so the pattern doesn't feel overwhelming.

KEEP OTHER ELEMENTS LIGHT AND AIRY. The table, chairs and hutch are all light-colored or white, which also helps balance out the busy wallpaper. The wood floor does have a darker stain, but the designer added a light-colored rug to keep things fresh and airy in this breakfast room.



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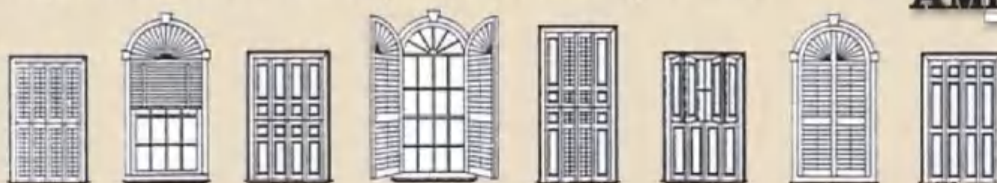
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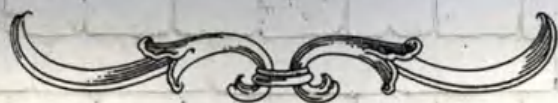
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